

NOVEMBER 562

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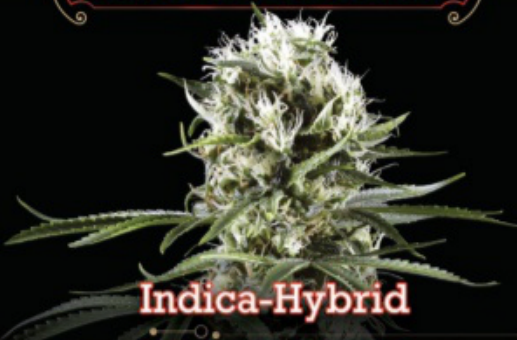
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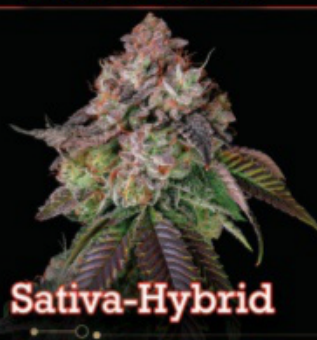
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November 2022 // Volume #562

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PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKONS,
@SMOKESIPSAVOR - PG. 68-69
ILLUSTRATIONS BY NIKKI ZUNINO,
@EN.ZY - PG. 67, 70

ON THE COVER



The Women's Issue

This month, we present a hand-picked selection of people to feature in the Women's Issue. We interviewed individuals who represent a wide variety of facets of the cannabis industry and beyond, and whose drive has led them to great success. These are just a few brilliant entrepreneurs behind unique cannabis-related businesses that promote accessible psychedelic plants, cannabis-friendly business spaces, high-quality hash and flower, infused food ingredients, and women's health.

TAHOE ALIEN
PHOTO: ANDREW PARKER,
@CHEWBERTO420

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Grow Your Own Psychedelics

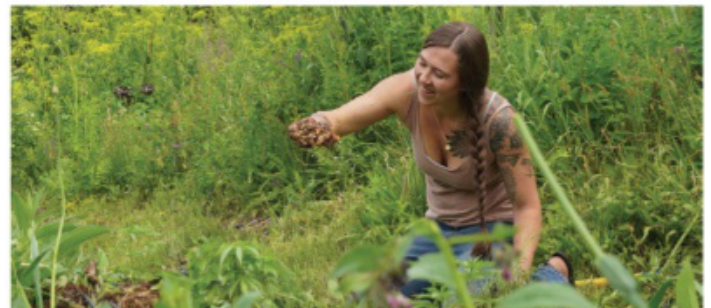
Did you know that the San Pedro cactus contains mescaline? Or that your average ice plant contains DMT? Personal Plants puts the spotlight on everyday plants with extraordinary psychedelic properties and creates an accessible way to purchase them in the form of seeds, cuttings, and beginner and advanced grow kits.



36

The CAM Come Up

Anna Willey, CEO and founder of California Artisanal Medicine (CAM), has become the stuff of legends in the cannabis industry. She tells *High Times* how she began as a cannabis courier on the East Coast and eventually settled in California where she secured a reliable partner, got her hands on the strain known as Apple Pie, and built a massively successful cannabis cultivation business.



46

Tending the Garden

Tending the Garden is a documentary that closely follows the everyday operations of three regenerative cannabis farms: Briceland Forest Farm, Green Source Gardens, and Radicle Herbs. Through the lens of Directors Claire Weissbluth and Jesse Dodd, the film explores the benefits of regenerative farming methods and the challenges that these small farms face.

54

Work'n'Roll: Cannabis Coworking in NYC

Julia Deviatkina traveled from Russia to settle in New York City, where she opened a private cannabis lounge that was forced to shutter its doors after receiving a cease-and-desist letter from the Office of Cannabis Management. However, this led Deviatkina to create Work'n'Roll, an "incubator" work space that helps bring cannabis professionals together to network and smoke.



FROM PASSION TO PARTNERSHIP

Michael Strupp &
Ryan Birchard
Co-Founders,
Wood Wide

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HISTORY IN THE MAKING

It feels good to be a woman in cannabis. Because there's far fewer of us than men in this industry, those who find success really sparkle. In this issue you're going to find more than one of those gems. The Dank Duchess is one of the most well-respected and knowledgeable voices when it comes to hash and psychedelics. Mary Jane Gibson caught up with Duchess while the waves crashed at Rockaway Beach to see what's next for the hash maker who recently took her years of experience in California to the emerging New York market. Andrew Ward visited a cannabis-friendly co-working space in downtown Manhattan run by Julia Deviatkina, an ambitious young entrepreneur jumping into the murky waters of cannabis consumption spaces in New York. Jimi

Devine got the story of how Anna Willey, the cultivator and CEO of CAM, crushed the competition in Colorado before CAM's rise in California to become one of elite cannabis smokers' most sought-after brands. And Kyle Eustice spoke with Santigold about balancing motherhood and art in these tumultuous times as the musician created her newest album, *Spirituals*.

Even though it's clear that these women (and so many more both inside and outside of the pages of this magazine) have risen to the extreme challenges of these times, we also need to acknowledge the struggles women all over the world continue to face.

Seven-time WNBA all-star Brittney Griner has been sentenced to nine years in Russian prison for forgetting to unpack a vape pen in her luggage. Her sentencing outcome was a devastating blow to anyone who has fought and is fighting for cannabis freedom worldwide.

And we can't make a Women's Issue without also recognizing the biggest "women's issue"—the loss of our bodily autonomy with the repeal of *Roe v. Wade*.

It's clear there are still many important causes to fight for. Let's keep using this beautiful female flower as fuel to burn through the difficulties ahead. 

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DEAR EDITOR,

Cannabis should be accessible to all, let's make sure we approach state and federal legalization the right way. Legalization must include automatic expungement and freeing of all people imprisoned for cannabis. No one should go to jail for weed. Legalization also must not exist without the right to grow your own cannabis at home. Legalization without homegrow is simply regulation and taxation.

High taxes create two separate markets: a stifled licensed, regulated, and taxed market, and a thriving duty-free market. The licensed regulated market has rules and regulations that require all cannabis products be tested for bacteria, mold, and pesticides. The duty-free market has no rules.

Lower taxes allows for a safer cannabis marketplace in general, and encourages consumers to purchase from licensed regulated retailers and provides consumers with access to safe and tested cannabis products.

I, alongside other advocates and small cannabis business owners in California, have been advocating for tax reform for many years. I have been in the cannabis industry since 2007. I have had a cannabis business in California since 2015. I am a legacy operator that has successfully transitioned over to become a licensed cannabis business owner. I have seen the transition from the medical cannabis Prop 215 days with loose regulations and no taxes to the now legal, highly regulated cannabis market in California.

The transition has been difficult to watch, and even more difficult to participate in. I've seen many of my friends, colleagues, and small craft cannabis producers lose their businesses over taxation and overregulation in the legal market. I've seen many life-saving cannabis products fade away. Many of our former customers no longer go to dispensaries to purchase their cannabis, they simply can't afford it because of the taxes.

How did we get to this place? Under Prop. 215 in 1996 we made cannabis accessible for medical patients, but in 2022 the same medical patients cannot afford safe and tested cannabis at the licensed dispensaries?

We need cannabis to be taxed reasonably and fairly across the United States. Cannabis should not be subject to an excise tax, better known as a "sin tax." Sin taxes have been assigned to harmful substances such as alcohol and tobacco. Why are we taxing cannabis like alcohol and tobacco? Cannabis is a natural, non-toxic plant and should be taxed as such. Cannabis should have no tax, just like pharmaceuticals. However, in our capitalistic framework, we find ourselves taxing cannabis. In this case we should treat cannabis like any other agricultural product.

We all must advocate for lower taxes and less regulation in the legal cannabis market. I am calling on medical cannabis patients, cannabis consumers, advocates, policy makers, and cannabis business owners alike. Everyone's voices have a place and must be heard.

Lower taxes and fewer regulations provides the space for creativity, innovation, and diversity in the marketplace. Right now, when one visits the dispensary in a highly regulated cannabis market, you will see the same homogenized products over and over again. All of these products are made by major billion dollar companies with no imagination, no creativity, and no real connection to the consumer or the community. Lower taxes and fewer regulations allow the traditional market to participate in the regulated market, creating a diverse array of products and craft cannabis producers. More products and more business owners means lower priced products, a better selection for the consumer, and more jobs for the community.

High tax rates and overregulation impede the regulated market by creating high cost products, making access to cannabis difficult for medical patients and consumers. The legal market cannot compete with the low prices offered by the duty-free market. Multi-state operators (MSOs) cannabis companies are able to raise millions and millions of dollars, often monopolizing markets and shutting out small and craft cannabis producers. This creates a stale market with mediocre products at best and also forces small craft cannabis producers underground to the duty-free market. Governments have made it clear that the duty-free market will be penalized with criminal charges and jail time. This is the War on Drugs 2.0. Legalization is supposed to free people from prosecution for cannabis, not re-criminalize them. Small cannabis businesses also create jobs. Small businesses are the primary provider of jobs across the United States.

In conclusion I ask that we all advocate for lower taxes and fewer regulations in the legal cannabis market. Support your small farmer and craft cannabis producer. Get active in cannabis advocacy in your area. Follow Supernova Women, NORML, and other cannabis advocacy groups to learn how to become civically engaged with your legislators. 

Sincerely,
Amber E. Senter
Co-Founder and Executive Director
Supernova Women

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Colorado Cannabis Industry Reports First-Ever Decline

The bubble has burst, as high pandemic era sales numbers are over. Colorado cannabis sales trended downward for the first time since 2014, according to the Colorado Department of Revenue. The most recently available data shows taxes, and fees collected from retail cannabis reached \$198.3 million, representing a \$53.7 million decline—21% lower than 2021 sales figures. Record sales were recorded in the state in 2021, as dispensaries reached \$2.2 billion and brought in \$423.5 million in taxes, but this year is significantly lower. Experts worry that if this decline continues throughout the year, state taxes allocated to organizations like the public school fund will drop. The public school fund collected \$24.9 million versus the \$31.5 million during the past year. Retail sales tax distribution to local governments could also drop from \$27.8 million to \$22 million. The price of flower is also down in the state. The latest market rates from the Colorado Department of Revenue indicate that flower is selling at around \$700 per pound, and trim is down to \$225 per pound.

Read more at [HighTimes.com](https://www.hightimes.com)



Legalization Initiative Qualifies for Missouri Ballot

A bill that would legalize adult-use cannabis officially qualified for Missouri's ballot on Aug. 9, giving voters there the opportunity to end the prohibition in the state in November. Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's office certified over 214,000 voter signatures across the state's eight congressional districts, which was far above the required 180,000 needed to make the ballot. The initiative would legalize cannabis for adults ages 21 and older and establish a system for a regulated cannabis market in the state. As seen in other states that have legalized adult-use cannabis, Missouri's new law would also provide a process for people who were previously convicted of cannabis-related offenses to get their records expunged. This isn't the state's first foray into cannabis; a majority of voters in Missouri approved an initiative in 2018 that legalized medical cannabis, and polls have shown that the state is ready to take the next step and legalize adult-use cannabis, as well.

Read more at [HighTimes.com](https://www.hightimes.com)



On Instagram

Behold the natural wonder of a trichome under high magnification! This stunning macro shot was captured by @zoom_gardens to kick off #TrichomeTuesday. The strain is Splenda (Artificial Red x Cream Pop) and was grown by @cms.topshelf. If you like this photo, be sure to check out the entire Instagram page of Zoom Gardens, as you'll find many incredible macro shots of trichomes and other features of the cannabis plant. The artist not only photographs macro shots of cannabis, but also amazing macro shots of insects, such as a yellow jacket, a wolf spider, and even a trio of orange-tipped oakworm moth larvae.



Tweet your best high observations and comments our way (@HIGH_TIMES_Mag) for a chance to be featured on this page! And be sure to follow us on Facebook: (Facebook.com/HighTimesMag) and Instagram: (@hightimesmagazine) for all the latest news as it's happening!

@canneutics @DrSafeCannabis @TheCannigma and @HIGH_TIMES_Mag I like the Ghost Train Haze (GTH) strain, which makes me want to clean my house. Not kidding! Crazy desire to organize. I am only too happy to clean junk drawers that haven't been touched in years.

@DutchPassion_ When the light hits just right. Thank you @HIGH_TIMES_Mag for sharing this beautiful picture of our Blueberry OG grown by "Kaptain Koverboy." #BlueberryOG #GorillaGlue #OGKush #Blueberry #HighTimesMagazine #dutchpassion

@fit_businessman @HIGH_TIMES_Mag @CossMarte and @conbudny in regards to Coss Marte, who went from dealer to entrepreneur with Conbud. Good for him! Unfortunate the recidivism is so high in our country. The most business savvy men I know are former dealers/traffickers. I always said "surviving the most cutthroat industry in the world provides opportunity that can't be taught"

@AmeriCannaBlunt @SharonLetts and @HIGH_TIMES_Mag This is absolutely incredible... Thank you so much Granny Storm Crow! You helped explain something that was puzzling me. Omega 3 deficiency & uncoupling. Thank you!! How can we access your 6,000 pages of studies? #SharingIsCaring





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WOMEN RACK UP WEED STATS

With legalization, women's acceptance and use of cannabis increases.

SINCE 2018, NEW FRONTIER DATA HAS SURVEYED MORE THAN 20,000 cannabis consumers to benchmark and analyze cannabis consumption behaviors. Our fourth edition, *Cannabis Consumers in America: Dynamics Shaping Normalization in 2022*, offers in-depth and comprehensive analysis of cannabis consumption and purchasing habits, behavioral drivers, and social attitudes at this inflection point in the legal market's growth. Included in the data are some differences in behavior between genders.

As legalization expands, with adult-use cannabis legalized for adults in 18 states and Washington, D.C., and medical cannabis legal in 37 states, so is the plant's legitimacy being increasingly realized and welcomed. New trends include well-designed packaging, clear and regulated information labels, lab-tested ingredients, standardized dosing, and modern branding.

While all consumers benefit from safer, regulated, easier-to-use products, female cannabis users in particular say that they appreciate the evolving approaches.

Amid lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic, legal cannabis sales grew nearly 50% throughout 2020, gaining some ground on the traditional U.S. alcohol market. Several cannabis operators estimated sales doubled or even tripled during the pandemic. There was a particular uptick reported by women over men.

Cannabis consumers are becoming more intentional with their use of the plant, seeking specific experiences from their cannabis use, and aligning the products they choose to those outcomes. While the top reasons for consuming cannabis have remained largely unchanged—including relaxation, pain management, improving sleep outcomes, and treating medical conditions—the broadening ways in which they can achieve these outcomes from the wide array of products on the market is leading to significant changes in the ways in which consumers are integrating cannabis into their lives.

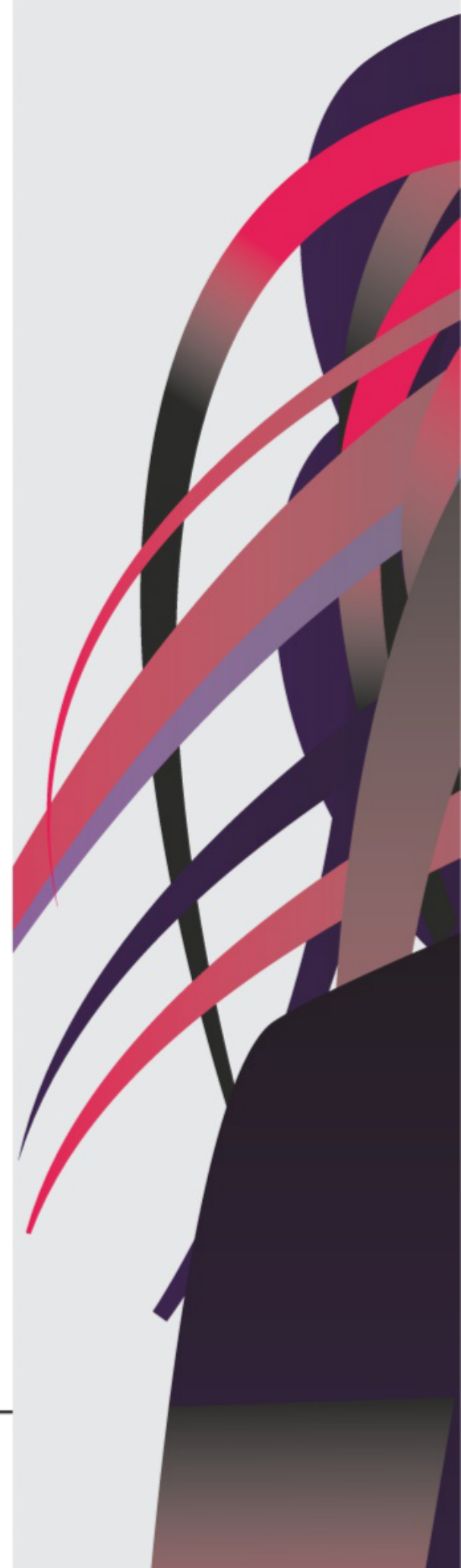
Changes are not just taking place in fully regulated markets. One of the notable findings in this report is how similar consumer behavior and preferences have become in both legal and illicit markets, as value-added products become more readily accessible across all markets.

Nationwide, women represent 46% of cannabis consumers while men represent 53% (respondents reporting being nonbinary/other represented 0.4%).

More than one-third (36%) of current consumers use cannabis multiple times a day. Roughly another third (31%) consumes once daily or every other day, and one-third (33%) consumes between once per week and once per year. Use frequency varies widely by age, with younger consumer groups generally using cannabis more frequently than older consumer groups.

The difference in use frequency between men and women is much smaller than between age groups, and overall distribution across frequencies is similar across genders. As a whole, male consumers use cannabis somewhat more frequently than do female consumers.

Consumers aged 55 plus, female consumers, and consumers in legal adult-use markets all report being slightly more likely than their counterparts to smoke only a couple hits at a time. >>





While males are slightly overrepresented among cannabis consumers in general, medical cannabis consumers are about evenly split between males and females. On average, medical consumers are slightly older than are recreational consumers.

Pain is the most common medical condition which medical consumers report for aiming to manage with cannabis, with roughly half (47%) of them treating some form of pain. Anxiety or panic is the second-most common condition treated with cannabis, reported by more than one-fifth (22%) of medical consumers overall. Medical consumers overwhelmingly report that cannabis has improved their medical conditions. More than half (51%) of women report using cannabis for medical purposes, versus 43% reporting using it for recreational purposes.

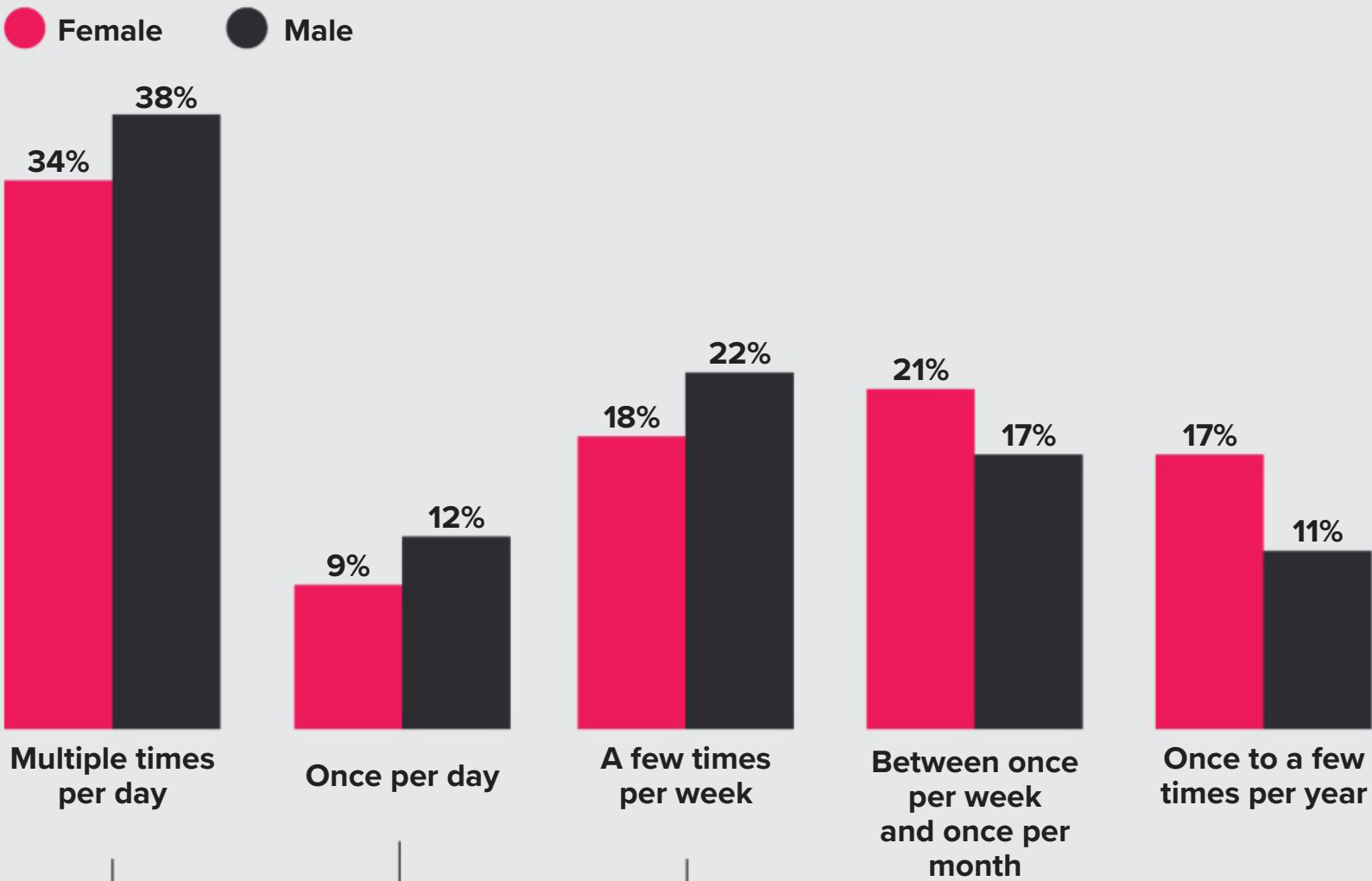
Female consumers cite using cannabis to self-medicate for diagnosed conditions including anxiety, anorexia, attention difficulties, post-traumatic stress disorder, and various forms of cancer. Some complain about poor experiences with prescribed pills or therapy, preferring instead to use cannabis.

Overall, 51% of consumers reported being eager to try a new cannabis product when they learned about one. Along gender lines, however, women are slightly less curious than are male consumers: 46% of women reported being eager to try a new product when they hear about it, compared to 56% of men being interested.

Consumers aged 55 plus, female consumers, and consumers in adult-use markets all report being slightly more likely than their counterparts to smoke only a couple hits at a time. **HT**

CANNABIS USE FREQUENCY:

By Gender



Consume more than once a week	
Female	61%
Male	72%

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▼ BRYAN BUCKLEY, CEO AND CO-FOUNDER OF HVGC, AND FOUNDER OF BATTLE BROTHERS FOUNDATION.

“These men and women went forward for us. It is now our turn to help them live the American dream that they fought so hard to defend.”

- Bryan Buckley

Cannabis After

Bryan Buckley’s organization helps veterans and supports medical cannabis research.

IF YOU ARE A VETERAN ANYWHERE IN THE U.S. AND YOU'RE HEAVILY INVOLVED IN VETERAN AND CANNABIS activism, then you probably have heard of Bryan Buckley and all he has done for veterans in this space. Buckley and his Marine Corps unit were a force to be reckoned with in one of the most dangerous valleys in Afghanistan. He held the role of special operations team commander with the Marine Raiders and led deployments in Operation Enduring Freedom-Trans Sahara in Africa and South East Asia, as well as Operation Enduring Freedom in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. For his service, he received the Bronze Star Medal with "Combat Distinguishing Device" for heroic service and the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received during combat operations.

Buckley takes that same determination and drive he offered during his service to the U.S. and channels that to serve the cannabis industry with his organization, the Helmand Valley Growers Company (HVGC), which has accomplished so much since its products launched in dispensaries in 2020. HVGC was founded by United States special operations veterans (Marine Raiders), which includes Buckley as CEO and co-founder, co-founder and COO Matt Curran, and Director of Cultivation Andy Miears. Buckley is also the founder of Battle Brothers Foundation, a non-profit organization that pairs veterans with individual or community-based mentors to help aid them in their transition into civilian life.

HVGC works with cannabis researchers at the Israel-based company NiaMedic to help provide evidence of the positive benefits of medical cannabis as a treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as well as the opioid and suicide epidemics. One-hundred percent of HVGC's profits go toward medical cannabis research. According to a *Los Angeles Times* article from June, the company has collected \$57,000 in HVGC sales from the Battle Brothers Foundation.

Combat

***High Times:* At what point in time in your life did you become aware that cannabis was, in fact, the answer to your healing?**

Bryan Buckley: While I was in the military I served in Marine Infantry, Marine Recon, and in Special Operations as Marine Raider. I was wounded in Afghanistan when I was hit by a grenade launcher that resulted in shrapnel throughout my body. When I left the military, I was deemed 100% disabled. [There was] a lot of wear and tear on my body along with post-traumatic stress. My body was at war with itself. I was in pain and could never get a full night of sleep. I was introduced to cannabis in 2016. It felt like a warm blanket wrapped itself around me. My mind was at rest. My body discovered peace. It was the first time in I do not know how long that I was finally able to

sleep at night. It was an absolute game changer for me, and that is when I started to think, "How can I help to prove the benefits that I have gained from cannabis and help our nation's heroes?"

Do you think that allowing the use of cannabis would be beneficial to our troops if the U.S. military had rules similar to that of the Canadian military, which allows consumption of cannabis while off duty?

I think it would be very positive if they did so. When you're off duty on the weekends, most active duty members will have some alcohol to decompress. Alcohol is a depressant; it has no medical benefit, and let's be honest, there can be incidents that happen that are negative, which is the result of drinking alcohol. Knowing what I know now, if we were able to use cannabis in the military, it would have been a much healthier lifestyle. I believe that cannabis can help the body recover, and you're still in control of your actions. I have never had to rip the keys out of someone's hands because they were "high" and wanted to drive. Typically, people who consume cannabis and might still feel the effects will use transportation where they are not driving. That is not the case with alcohol.

Do you believe you will witness the end of cannabis prohibition in your lifetime?

Yes! I believe the road to legal cannabis will go right through our cannabis company, Helmand Valley Growers Company, and our non-profit, Battle Brothers Foundation. We have been approved for an Institutional Review Board (IRB), which means we have been approved by a federally required committee that is responsible for overseeing research involving human participants. Approval is based on the ethical treatment of participants. IRBs are exceedingly difficult and lengthy process to obtain approval, even more so when cannabis is involved due to the federal illegality of cannabis. We are working with NiaMedic Healthcare and Research Services, and the University of Irvine Health will serve as our principal investigator. We will develop a formulation and a treatment protocol. The study that we will perform is to see if medical cannabis can reduce the symptoms of post-traumatic stress. Our goal is to have our product in the Veterans Health Administration and available in the [Department of Veterans Affairs] pharmacies that veterans will be able to pick up after being prescribed by their doctor. This will ultimately mean that medical cannabis is federally legal. This will not mean just to veterans, but to all patients across our country. >>

“I was introduced to cannabis in 2016. It felt like a warm blanket wrapped itself around me. My mind was at rest, my body discovered peace.”

- Bryan Buckley



Why do you think our society continues to ignore the staggering frequency of veteran suicides?

In June of 2021, Boston University put out a study that showed during the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), we lost 7,070 men and women on the battlefield. I added an additional 13 to that number due to military members that we lost during the withdrawal of Afghanistan. During that same period, we have lost nearly 31,000 active duty and veterans to suicide. So if you think about it, it is more dangerous for us to be in America than the streets of Fallujah, Iraq, or the Helmand Province, Afghanistan. It really is not discussed much by the media, no one really pays attention to it, and that is really sad. I wish more media outlets would focus on the opiate epidemic and suicide epidemic that is plaguing our nation's heroes.

However, all veterans know what we are facing. We all brought demons back from combat. You never get rid of your demons, but you need to learn to live above them. There are a lot of veterans and our voices will be heard. This is our new battlefield. We need to keep talking to our political representatives. Work with them and help prove the benefits [of medical cannabis]. I would like to personally challenge the media to track opiate deaths and veteran suicides like they did for people having a positive COVID test. We can't take our eyes off of this. These men and women went forward for us, it is now our turn to help them live the American dream that they fought so hard to defend.

What is your all-time favorite strain?

Helmand Valley Growers Company's (HVGC) Afghanimal. It is [cross between] Animal Cookies and Afghan Kush. It is amazing. Instant relaxation, slows the world down and will give you one of the best nights of sleep that you will have. We have received a lot of positive feedback with Afghanimal and veterans who suffer with PTSD, [who] utilize it at night.

What is the craziest place you've ever smoked cannabis?

My parent's house. Not so much that it was at my parent's house, but my brother Steve, who is older than me, was all nervous. He said, "What if mom and dad find out?" I just looked at him and said, "We are both in our 40s and I run a cannabis company. I think the word is out already." We still laugh about that.

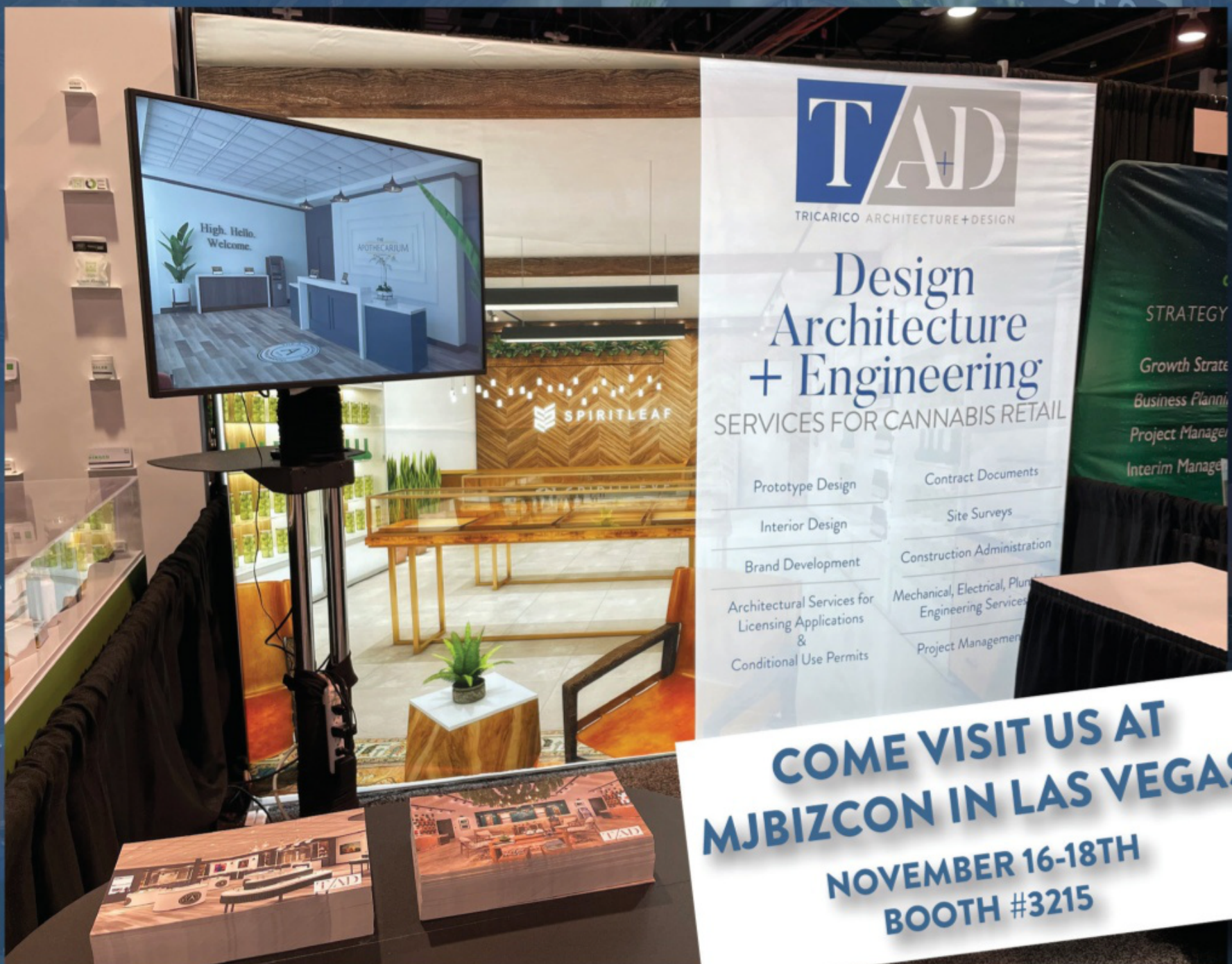
Who is the most famous person you have ever smoked weed with?

I would say it has been with numerous veterans. To me, they are my heroes. I am always humbled being around other veterans, sharing stories, and talking. Might not be [a] "famous person," but to me, they are. **HT**

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MARKET ANALYSIS

For the second consecutive month, the Southern marijuana market was lowest in the nation, down to **\$282** per average ounce, an **\$18** decrease from last month's previous record low. The Eastern market also had a nice dip, dropping eight dollars to **\$301**. Shockingly, weed in the West is currently the most expensive in America, at **\$305** a zip, which was a two dollar increase from last month. Overall, an average ounce of ganja across the country fetches **\$296**. Jack Herer narrowly edged out GG4 to win November's Top 5 Strains, which also featured rare appearances by Durban Kush and L.A. Kush Cake.

TOP 5 STRAINS

1	Jack Herer	3 @ \$328
2	GG4	3 @ \$322
3	Sour Diesel	2 @ \$387
4	Durban Kush	2 @ \$350
5	L.A. Kush Cake	2 @ \$257

WINNERS



↑ AbbVie Inc.	NYSE: ABBV	\$140.34 (+2.30)
↑ Growgeneration Corp	NAS: GRWG	\$5.50 (+0.65)
↑ Canopy Growth Corp	NAS: CGC	\$3.28 (+0.58)
↑ Tilray Inc.	NAS: TLRY	\$4.30 (+0.40)
↑ Jazz Pharma	NAS: JAZZ	\$154.11 (+0.39)

LOSERS



↓ Constellation Brands	NYSE: STZ	\$234.88 (-9.47)
↓ Innovative Industrial Properties Inc.	NYSE: IIPR	\$93.65 (-0.76)
↓ Leafly	NAS: LFLY	\$2.80 (-0.29)
↓ Village Farms Intl Inc.	NAS: VFF	\$3.13 (-0.05)
↓ Jushi Holdings	OTC: JUSHF	\$2.03 (-0.02)

HIGHEST 10 STATES

CALIFORNIA <i>Mount Zereal Kush</i>	\$464
UTAH <i>Jack Herer</i>	\$440
MISSOURI <i>Love Affair</i>	\$440
ILLINOIS <i>Sour Diesel</i>	\$430
NEVADA <i>Jack Herer</i>	\$426
FLORIDA <i>Versace</i>	\$420
NEW MEXICO <i>Sour Nana Trop</i>	\$402
COLORADO <i>Durban Kush</i>	\$400
DELAWARE <i>Berry Poppins</i>	\$400
MAINE <i>Do-Si-Dos</i>	\$393

LOWEST 10 STATES

OREGON <i>Blue City Diesel</i>	\$50
SOUTH CAROLINA <i>Loud Dream</i>	\$100
VERMONT <i>Jack Herer</i>	\$119
CALIFORNIA <i>Apples & Bananas</i>	\$120
NEVADA <i>Ice Cream Cake</i>	\$142
MISSISSIPPI <i>Girl Scout Cookies</i>	\$188
COLORADO <i>Jealousy</i>	\$195
MARYLAND <i>Blue Dream</i>	\$200
TENNESSEE <i>Lemon Diesel</i>	\$200
NEW JERSEY <i>L.A. Kush Cake</i>	\$225

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GROW YOUR OWN HEADLICS



Personal Plants makes home cultivation more accessible.

by Ellen Holland

THE OPPORTUNITY TO CULTIVATE PSYCHEDELIC PLANTS AT HOME HAS ARRIVED.

Personal Plants is on a mission to connect more people with herbal medicine through educational materials and DIY grow kits. Founded by Amanda Reiman in 2020, Personal Plants champions the home cultivation of entheogenic plants and provides seeds, rooted cuttings, and grow kits to start your own psychedelic garden.

“We really want people to develop a relationship with these plants,” Reiman said. “We need to give them the opportunity to grow.”

Personal Plants sells a variety of seeds and plant cuttings available for mail order throughout the U.S., such as the huachuma cactus, more commonly known as San Pedro cactus, which contains mescaline. The company also offers ice plants, which include the hallucinogenic chemicals DMT and 5-MeO-DMT. Many selections, like passionflower and morning glory, are most commonly seen in the U.S. as ornamental houseplants.

“Very interestingly, these plants are legal to grow, which a lot of people don’t know,” Reiman said. “It’s legal to grow ayahuasca as a vine; it’s just not legal to process ayahuasca into a brew.”

Reiman explained that entheogenic means “a plant that invites the divine within,” which expands the category beyond only hallucinogenic plants to those, like nicotine, that are used in ritual.

“From a consumer perspective having a relationship with what you might consume makes you a more conscious consumer,” she said of her company’s “seed-to-self-reliance” model. “Growing a plant, whether or not you consume it, gives you a new respect for what it takes for that plant to become the medicine. I think that in and of itself is a meditative exercise that can feed into other areas of your life when you think about consuming other things.” >>

PLANT RELATIONSHIPS

...

Reiman got the idea for Personal Plants following a 10-day silent meditation retreat she attended in Hawaii in February 2020. Her professional background includes over two decades of research into people's relationship with plants. Reiman became a cannabis activist when she joined the Students for Sensible Drug Policy while living in Chicago in the '90s. She then decided to pursue a Ph.D. in social welfare to examine the impacts of the War on Drugs, which brought her to California to study at the University of California, Berkeley, in the early 2000s. She went on to become the manager of drug policy and law for the Drug Policy Alliance. Eventually, She moved to Northern California "to see how legalization was going to be implemented on the local level and what that was going to look like for farmer communities."

Within her work in cannabis, Reiman saw the benefits of people cultivating their own medicine. After the retreat, she expanded her mission to normalize and destigmatize the cannabis plant to include other plants that also can contribute to wellness.

"I wanted Personal Plants to help people understand that it's more than just economics you get from growing your own plants; it's actually a very spiritual practice," she said. "And especially when you're talking about entheogenic plants, [growing] can be a healing art in and of itself." >>





▲ SAN PEDRO CACTUS ABSTRACT COMPOSITION | PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

**“WE REALLY WANT
PEOPLE TO DEVELOP A
RELATIONSHIP WITH
THESE PLANTS.”**
- AMANDA REIMAN

The plants come with care instructions and information about the chemicals that each contains.

“We have a beginner kit and an advanced kit so folks can start off with something that is lower maintenance and then move into some of the more high maintenance plants,” Reiman said.

For Reiman, the company is also a way to reframe the conversation around psychedelics away from consumption to cultivation.

“The renaissance of discussion around psychedelics for mental health purposes is fabulous, but what I really want to see is a furthering about what that access is going to look like,” she said. “I feel the whole grow home-sharing model is what fits best for these types of plants along with access to ceremony and therapy from trusted, trained providers.”

Creative Director Caitlin Riley said Personal Plants

stresses “the experience of having a relationship with a plant” to further the teachings divine inspiration can provide.

“The word ‘divine’ is so loaded with religious terminology, but to me, it can mean finding the self, and finding the divine in yourself and plants can be the means to show you that,” Riley said. HT

 mypersonalplants.com

**“GROWING
A PLANT,
WHETHER
OR NOT YOU
CONSUME IT,
GIVES YOU A NEW
RESPECT FOR WHAT
IT TAKES FOR THAT
PLANT TO BECOME
THE MEDICINE.”**

- AMANDA REIMAN





MORNING GLORIES



AYAHUASCA



SAN PEDRO CACTUS



ICE PLANTS



GRINDING OUT OF THIS WORLD

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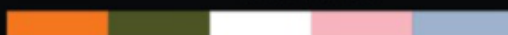


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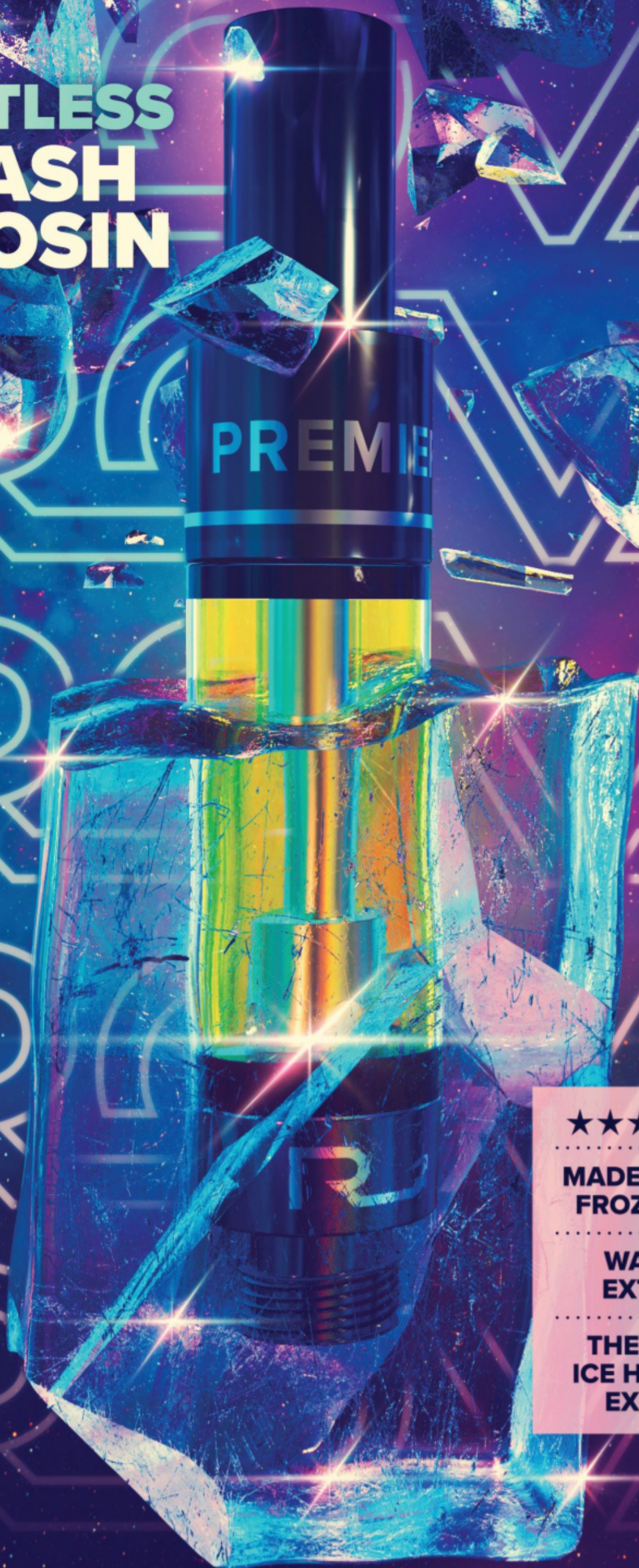
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THE CAM COME UP

LA PALETA



HOW A BACKGROUND IN TECH, LONGTIME DEVOTION TO WEED, AND A BIT OF LUCK LED ANNA WILLEY TO SUCCESS.

by Jimi Devine

Few names loom as large over exotic American cannabis as Anna Willey. In a legal industry where jokes about quality have become the norm, not many companies have been able to float on top of that noise based on the quality of the product. Hers, California Artisanal Medicine or CAM, is like a battleship ripping through the waves of the decimated California industry.

While many struggle to sell middle-tier products as elite, Willey can barely feed the monster. She's on the cusp of opening her 2,000-plus-light cathedral of hype in Sacramento, on top of a new facility she just opened in Long Beach. The facility will be her second in California's capital, with the ground now breaking on a third. Willey jokes she'll run back to her 500-lighter if she screws it up, but many insiders expect the facility to become one of America's premier heat factories once it's finished. Some even inquired with Willey about her helping their own production needs.

But how did a bubbly Indian-born retired software engineer climb to the highest heights of California's cannabis industry with a stop on the Colorado throne along the way? It all started in what is currently the wildest frontier in legal cannabis, New York City. >>



LA PALETA

“WE WOULD LITERALLY DO IT LIKE NEW YORK CITY DELI STYLE. WHEN WE RAN OUT OF WEED THAT DAY, WE WERE OUT OF WEED.”

- ANNA WILLEY



WORKING YOUR WAY UP

● Willey arrived in NYC with her parents at the age of 6. At one point, her dad would leave mom in NYC while he headed north to get a degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, one of the top engineering schools on the planet. Her mom would become a nurse. By sixth grade in 1985, Willey would become a courier for one of NYC's famed old-school weed delivery services. She pointed to that moment as where her real cannabis

adventure started, but before that, she had enjoyed the smell the first time she was around someone smoking.

“Back then, it was all about the service in New York City,” Willey told *High Times*. “To get into cannabis, you had to get a job delivering weed, and you needed to kind of work your way up the system.”

When she came home with the cash from her efforts, her parents' conservative household took a no-questions-asked policy. She would work for the service for a few years. If you ordered cannabis from the service between 2nd and Gold and

Murray Hill, Willey would show up right out of school with her Catholic schoolgirl uniform and 1.2 grams for \$120 bucks. Willey said it sounds steep, but buyers had to say yes or they would get a visit from a large Puerto Rican man.

Her parents still turned a blind eye.

“I think that they thought it stopped for a little bit in college,” Willey said, smiling. “As all Indian people and children when they're born, they tell you that you can be many different types of a doctor. You can just pick a type of doctor. So, obviously, I did not want to be a doctor.”



OREOZ



DOSI KUSH



CAM OWNER ANNA WILLEY.

GROWING & CODING

● Willey noted her sister skipped the medical school plan too, but her mom still tells people she's a pharmacist. By 10th grade, Willey was bodega hopping in Harlem and the Lower East Side looking for the newest issues of *High Times*. After graduating from college, Willey would move west to Colorado in 1998.

When she arrived, she immediately met a grower named John from Fort Collins. He offered to set her up in a grow house. There she would learn to grow. She laughed, noting how much easier it is in the modern era to get the info you need, "Nowadays, you just get on to YouTube. And it's crazy, right?"

When she did get on the internet forums, she felt there was a ton of support. She was amazed by just how many people were open to helping her. With her background in tech, she also didn't have any fears about covering her tracks as she searched for the answers to her growroom problems on sites that would eventually be shut down by the feds.

Nevertheless, her first round would not go to plan.

"All males," Willey said. "And I'm talking about ripe ball sacks covering the plant. I kept posting to IC Mag and Overgrow like, 'These are new strains.' I thought I created a new strain."

Willey noted that pollen stuck around for about a year and a half and caused a lot of headaches. The first strains she would work with included DJ Short's Blueberry and Fort Collins Cough.

Through all this, Willey continued writing code for IBM and Computer Associates. It was the early beginnings of the move towards automation in as many sectors as possible. Willey's STEM background from childhood through college would give her

much more faith in technology than her peers back then. She applied this knowledge to the grow.

"So it was a huge breakthrough, and I was like, 'Oh my god, I'm breaking through in technology,' because I was one of the first people to do automated grows," Willey said. "So everyone that I met would boast about hand watering and [was] also constantly talking about how they want to be there when the lights are on."

Willey thought the idea of needing to be completely hands-on was dumb, and people needed to learn about timers. What if they got sick or had a flat tire on the way to the grow? There are a thousand reasons to have some redundancy when talking about getting your lights powered up on time.

During that era in Colorado, she would start growing in rockwool. Eventually, she would make the move to Hydroton and use it through 2009 before making the jump to an ebb-and-flow system with Hydroton.

While continuing to develop her skills, she would open Colorado's third dispensary. Her first fully legal grow would be 30 lights, the next 150. She thought she was in heaven.

The next major factor in her rise came in 2011. She decided she was going to get her general contractor's license.

"It took me two years. I worked under a bunch of subcontractors, mechanical, plumbing, electrical. I learned enough about those trades to actually get a general contractor license," Willey said. "And then I was able to do my own builds. That's when it was over. I had a 40,000-square-foot warehouse. I had 760 lights. I had three warehouses."

Her weed started to take off. As demand increased, she started the ongoing quest of growing as much fire as possible that she's on to this day. At the peak of her Colorado cultivation capacity she would have 1,250 lights.

"We would literally do it like New York City deli style," Willey said. "When we ran out of weed that day, we were out of weed."

The store would close early every day for three years. Every single day they ran out of weed, even as Willey expanded she just couldn't keep up. Another thing helping push numbers was the fact hers was the first shop in Colorado offering half-eighths. This allowed people to mix and match more than other dispensaries. When Willey worked the counter herself, the half-eighths weighed a little heavy. The patients loved it. >>



BISCOTTI-OTI-OTI

MOVING ON FROM MAGIC DUST

● In 2013 and 2014, she started plotting her move west. She was already getting a lot of her genetics from California.

“I was very aware of how much better California cannabis was; even five months old light deps were severely better than what I call the magic dust,” Willey said.

No matter how good Willey was at growing pot, it was never going to be able to compete with the cannabis being grown at sea level in California. Even to this day, indoor farms skirting the waster in the San Francisco Bay Area are considered among the best in the world.

Willey would eventually sell everything she owned. But as with much of her life, it all started on the forums. They were alive and well through the cannabis floods and droughts of the mid-2010s. As she continued to watch the landscape, it was very obvious to her that those with the heat were in the best shape. California was the land of the heat, and it was before the price crashes we’d start to see later in the decade.

When she arrived in California to start her conquests in 2018, she wanted to get on METRC as soon as possible. Her buildout ended up taking eight months, and everything was on the books. Her friends already here balked at the idea, but her first California runs were basically as compliant as they could be at that moment.

But how did she end up in Sacramento? In her early goings, she would attempt to get set up in Oakland. She quickly realized it was not the most friendly place for cannabis with everyone from the city council to the landlords lining up to milk the industry. But as she worked to fund the California move, one of the jobs she was doing was licensing work. Through that work, she would become familiar with just how friendly Sacramento is to cannabis businesses.

“I noticed it was the number one place that was super friendly to other people. I had a great connection with the Connected team, and Sacramento was celebrating Connected, giving them a store license, whatever they applied for,” Willey said of the observation. “So I was like, ‘OK, this town seems much friendlier.’”

There is an argument to be made that her decision to move to Sacramento has crafted one of the biggest cannabis companies to hit the top-shelf market following legalization. There was always going to be a boutique class of bougie top-shelf selection for those who wanted to pay big money. When Willey hit Sacramento, it was the beginning of that kind of quality being normalized for everyone.

She laughed and noted it wasn’t that easy out the gate. When she went all-in on California and sold her last Colorado warehouse, she brought 19 OGs with her that nobody wanted. It was all good though! She found a guy in the desert with a Harvard business degree that would buy all this pot, but he quickly realized consumers

“TO GET INTO CANNABIS, YOU HAD TO GET A JOB DELIVERING WEED, AND YOU NEEDED TO KIND OF WORK YOUR WAY UP THE SYSTEM.”

- ANNA WILLEY

couldn’t tell the difference between light deps and indoor, especially if they couldn’t look before they bought it. He ended up making the switch to pounds he could get for \$850 as opposed to Willey’s indoor.

“He ditched me for deps in October,” Willey said. “It was brutal and hilarious at the same time.”

Eventually, Willey would get her hands on cuts more suited to Californians’ tastes. As soon as CAM flowers started hitting shelves, it was always priced at least \$5 cheaper than things of comparable quality, sometimes even \$15 bucks cheaper as others attempted to cash in on whatever hype had gotten them that far. Shelf by shelf, CAM began to dot California from north to south.

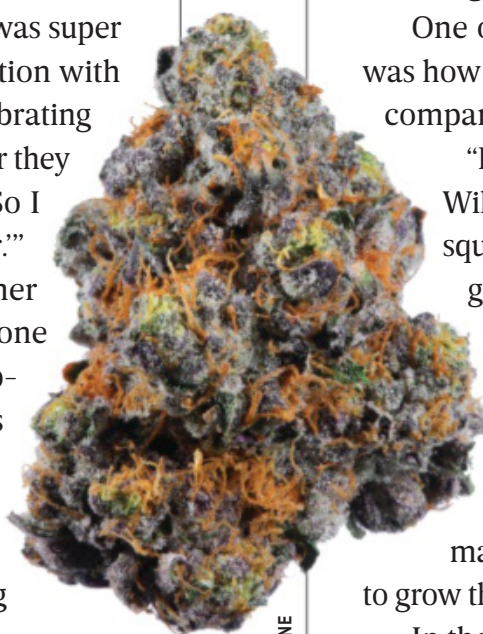
One of the reasons for that competitive price point was how much cheaper it was to operate in Sacramento compared to her initial potential home in Oakland.

“I got super lucky with my landlord in Sacramento,” Willey said. “It was still insanely expensive, \$1.75 a square foot. But the building was good. We all had a good foundation and relatively good TPO [thermo-plastic polyolefin] roofs. They already had some basic power, 800 to 1,000 amps. It had some good bones if you can say that about a building.”

Things were eventually going well. Someone offered to buy her out. But two days before making the deal she pulled out. She was destined to grow the heat for the masses, how could she stop now?

In the end, it would work out.

“Everybody talks about how we got all these investors and whatever. I got lucky and I got one partner and that’s all I really needed. And then one of my closest friends, a grower in Colorado at Grand LAX, Josh Granville, had already come up before, and he was, you know, doing his own thing” >>



MYSTERY MACHINE



FORMULA 41



EASY AS APPLE PIE

● Eventually, Willey got her hands on some Apple Pie. It was some kind of bastardized version of Apple Fritter that her friends at the kings of apple weed, Lumpy's, had vetted as something close to the original Fritter but not exactly the same thing. This was also the strain that put CAM on my radar back in the day. It was the absolute top of the mountain. There is a strong argument to be made at the peak of apple terps hype a couple of years ago, the three most popular strains were CAM's Apple Pie, Lumpy's original Fritter phenos, and Alien Labs's Atomic Apple. The trio firmly separated themselves from the pack.

She would send a box of that primo Apple Pie to Berner from Cookies. His lineup of dispensaries is now one of CAM's biggest clients. Willey transitioned to all the doors that have opened for her over the years through her dedication to the flame and regardless of plumbing.

"My experience of being a woman in cannabis. Is that I've just been surrounded by older brothers, mentors, people that have embraced me and shown me so much love and respect," Willey said. "I'm not here to tell people there is not sexism or misogyny inside the industry. I'm not here to say that. I'm just here to talk about my experience and my experience with all these people that are in cannabis that have moms and sisters and girlfriends, and whatever, like really treated me as such."

Things would change a lot from those early runs. Gone were the Harvard MBAs that were flush with newly raised capital

and ready to buy anything in a jar that tested half decent. Then came the consolidation of many companies. Those with the heat like Willey would be survivors, but it was nuts. She started seeing things like dehydrated nugs going through testing to make the THC numbers higher. She didn't even realize for a bit you could shop around the same batch for the highest THC numbers since there are no standardized cannabis lab operating procedures (plans are set to change next year.).

"And it's about to happen. The homogenization of the testing process is going to be revolutionary for cannabis in California. I really do believe that because you will finally be able to grow a lot of strains [that you can't in a THC-driven market,]" Willey said.

She's been sitting on cuts for years, waiting for the moment lab testing wouldn't be as big a factor. About 80% of them are mother plants; the rest are in tissue culture.

We asked Willey if there was a moment where she knew her weed was doing better than most as the walls were caving in on the California industry. She explained it's not about the hundreds of stores she finds herself in but the sell-through. That's when she knows she is connecting with the shop's clientele.

"The one thing I really want to convey is how lucky I am with how much love California has shown some small transplant," Willey said. "I have the best team. I can't like, I mean, I want like a whole segment of this conversation to be about how lucky I got." **HT**

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FACT

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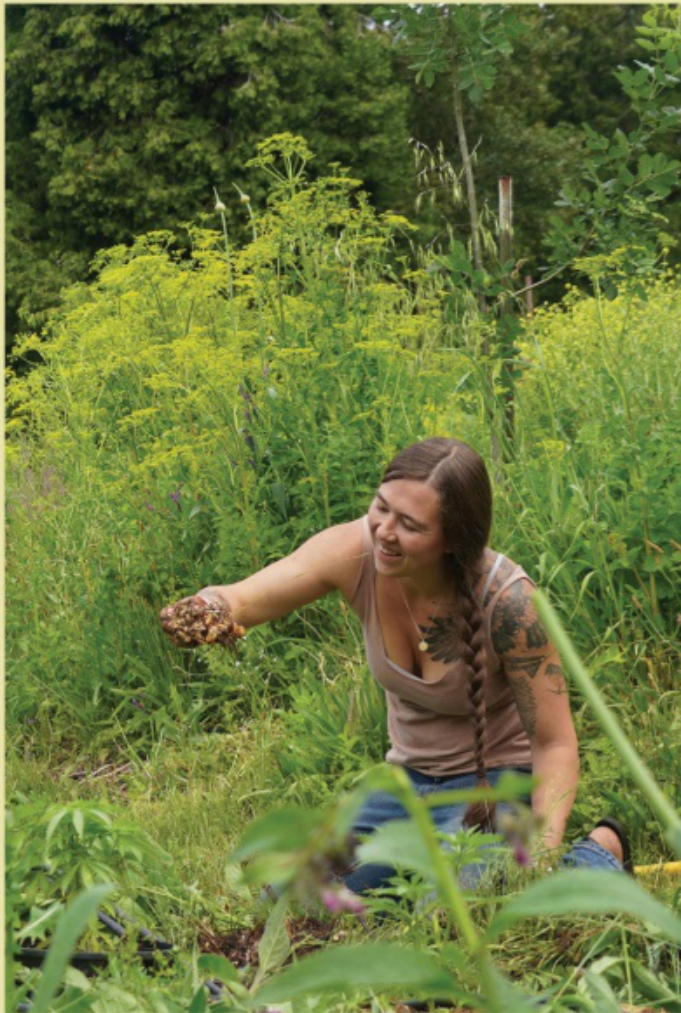


FILMMAKERS CLAIRE WEISSBLUTH AND JESSE DODD OFFER
A UNIQUE GLIMPSE INTO GROWING CANNABIS ON SMALL
REGENERATIVE FARMS.

BY BENJAMIN M. ADAMS

“REGENERATIVE FARMING IS THINKING ABOUT: HOW DO YOU SEQUESTER THE CARBON BACK INTO THE SOIL? HOW DO YOU USE PRACTICES THAT LEAVE THE EARTH BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT EVERY YEAR?”

- CLAIRE WEISSBLUTH



ELIZABETH MAHMOOD FROM GREEN SOURCE GARDENS.

Directed by Claire Weissbluth, aka La Osa, and Jesse Dodd, *Tending the Garden* follows the lives of the people behind three regenerative farms—Briceland Forest Farm, Green Source Gardens, and Radicle Herbs—up close and personal. The film revolves around regenerative farming practices in cannabis, food, and beyond.

Regenerative farming goes beyond organic and sustainable gardening; even when a farmer uses organic products and nutrients, it isn't necessarily good for the environment. Regenerative agriculture utilizes natural cycles with processes like remediation that work in tandem with the surrounding environment. This might include sequestering carbon for soil, using closed-loop systems, preserving beneficial native habitats, and other ways of farming that don't drain natural resources.

The core goal behind the film is to dispel myths and show that regenerative farming is relatively easy to do; it doesn't necessarily mean more expenses—making it a logical choice for both farmers and the environment.

“We filmed it in 2021 in the spring and then followed the farms over the course of the whole year,” Weissbluth says. “And then we’ve been editing it this year. But the idea for the project started when I began working with my co-director, Jesse [Dodd], in 2018, when he started the Regenerative Cannabis Farm Award at the Emerald Cup.”

Green Source Gardens won the Emerald Cup Regenerative Farm Award in 2016, Briceland Forest Farm won the award in 2017, and Radicle Herbs won in 2018. Other similar awards also make these farms shining examples of regenerative farming: Green Source Gardens, for instance, received the 2018 Regenerative Farming Award at the Cultivation Classic.

Weissbluth and Dodd share the same ideals when it comes to documenting these unique farms.

“It’s been an honor to work with such a talented and professional filmmaker as Claire to bring these ideas in beautiful farms to the light of the big screen,” Dodd says.

Dodd is also the creator of Biovortex, a living conceptual art piece designed to stir conversations about the future of regenerative farming. The art piece is portrayed via photography, writing, social media, conversions, and in-depth presentations and provides information on gardening, soil building, and breeding.

Weissbluth started making short videos about regenerative cannabis farms and then focused *Tending the Garden* on three that she believed were positive examples of regenerative cannabis farming practices. She decided to follow each of them for a whole year.

“[Regenerative farming is] the concept of giving back to the earth,” she says. “And industrial agriculture really has only the industrial model, which only focuses on extracting resources from the Earth, which is really harming the planet. Industrial agriculture is a huge contributor to climate change. And, you know, tilling is releasing a lot of carbon into the atmosphere. And so regenerative farming is thinking about: How do you sequester the carbon back into the soil? How do you use practices that leave the Earth better than you found it every year?”

To truly understand a farm, you have to put yourself in the shoes of a farmer. >>

BECOMING ONE WITH THE FARMS

When working with cannabis farmers, they often end up becoming almost like family, Weissbluth explains, and that happens the longer you stay around them.

“The [people on the] farms are what I would consider good friends of ours at this point. They really, you know, let us stay at their house and cook amazing meals for us and like to hang out with their kids,” Weissbluth says. “I think that is a unique part of this film is that we really went. We were part of the whole thing. And even Radicle Herbs, which is in Covelo, they have sort of extreme temperatures. So yeah, we were waking up at 6 a.m., when there’s still frost on the ground, to go and film, you know, get close-ups of frozen plants and stuff. And then in the summer. It was around this time last year. I remember it was 108 degrees, which was really intense.”

Part of this process involved first-hand exposure to the daily labor that these farmers undergo every day.

“You get a window into what these guys do and how hard they work,” Weissbluth says.

Weissbluth was surprised at exactly how much work goes into farming, work that expanded beyond growing cannabis. Two farms featured in the film also participate in community supported agriculture (CSA) boxes growing farm-fresh vegetables.

“I got insight into how much labor it actually takes to harvest vegetables and make a CSA box and take it to town,” Weissbluth says. “Two of the farms are also at a farmers market—vegetable farmers—and they’re just working so hard all the time. And we wanted to tell that story, but also make it fun and entertaining. And yeah, just capture the beauty of farming this way.”

By following the growth of cannabis from popping seeds in the spring to the harvest—showing the plant in all of its glory—the film became a joyful celebration of a year-long process of creating healthy cannabis while also healing the Earth.

“It’s about caring for land beyond the farm,” Weissbluth says. “There’s a scene in the film with Daniel [Stein] from Briceland



▲ TENDING THE GARDEN
DIRECTOR CLAIRE
WEISSBLUTH.

LEFT: CHERRY LIME
DOG PLANT GROWING
NEAR BLOOMING
PURPLE CONEFLOWERS
AT BRICELAND FAMILY
FARMS.

RIGHT: CLAIRE
WEISSBLUTH USES A
LADDER TO FILM OVER
TOWERING CANNABIS
PLANTS.

Forest Farm. He has experience as a local volunteer firefighter, and also he did some training with the indigenous people in our area, and they’re trying to do intentional prescribed fire and actually burning in a specific way at a specific time of year, but using fire as a tool, like indigenous people have always done for thousands of years.”

In one scene, viewers see Stein using his chainsaw, cutting tree limbs down, taking dead trees out of the forest and burning them. Weissbluth explained that while that might seem a little alarming—not something that would seem “regenerative” at first glance, it is part of the practice.

“We do want to talk about how the concept of regenerative farming is really just kind of a new word for ancient practices,” she says. “The people in the film, none of them are indigenous, but they are very, you know, tuned into these ways of living with the cycles, the seasons. And giving back was kind of always part of the way that people survived on this planet before we switched. Before colonization and before the industrial [era]. Like seeing the Earth and seeing everything as a resource that we can just take and take.” >>



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▲
PLANTS GROWING IN
HARMONY AT RADICLE
HERBS IN COVELO,
CALIFORNIA.

Regenerative agriculture can be inexpensive if you know how to recycle materials and take advantage of abundant natural resources. In one scene, Stein of Briceland Forest Farm chops down huge cannabis stocks, grinds them up and makes them into a pile. Then the chips go back into the compost pile and become part of the fertilizer providing nutrition for next year. The farm also uses goat manure from their herd of goats. On each of the farms featured in the film raising animals and growing vegetables becomes a sort of interconnected activity.

“We’re just trying to sort of show that there are ways to do this without buying stuff from the store, even if it’s organic fertilizer or organic soil, that there are ways that you can really produce it yourself,”

Weissbluth says. “And for lower costs, lower impact on the environment, not using as much plastic. And that’s that it is possible. We’re trying to make it educational and also inspirational for people to use some of these tools themselves.”

Dodd hopes that, similarly to the wine industry, the film will help people start to care more about the art, the terroir, the places, and the practices that go into growing cannabis. Once people know that they want to connect with those things, he says, then cannabis becomes more valuable.

“The practices themselves are closed-loop systems where you’re actually utilizing the environment, the resources that you have around you to create more thriving, and fertile abundance in your soil and your farm as a whole,” he says. “So the more people learn from native wisdom, the more they learn permaculture practices, the lower their cost of production becomes, and the higher quality their flowers become.”

Utilizing the surrounding environment is practically the opposite of what large grow operations do.

“All of that cost reduction leads to a higher-quality product that, I believe, is just so much more valuable than something grown in a more industrial-type model,” Dodd says, noting there are benefits in the quality of regeneratively-grown cannabis and its effects. “The much more robust, biochemical development with the living soil grown outdoor flower is huge.”

Part of being profitable also involves fighting overbearing tax burdens. Over 300 cannabis farmers and allies gathered at the Humboldt County Courthouse on Jan. 18, 2022, to rally and support their request to the Board of Supervisors asking them to Suspend Measure S, the county’s cannabis cultivation tax. Humboldt County Growers Alliance hired Weissbluth to document the rally in a separate project.

Weissbluth explains how it’s been disappointing to see how the regulations in the adult-use marketplace have not made it easy for the small farmers and the supply chain. She hopes the Jan. 18 rally in Humboldt County will create lasting change.

She also acknowledges steps to help farmers, such as California’s cultivation tax, which was eliminated in July, and local efforts.

“Those are, I think, [are] steps in the right direction, but the supply chain is still a really big problem for the small farmers who are trying to get their freshly harvested cured product,” she says. “They want to get it to consumers, in the best form possible, the best quality, and because they have to send it to a distributor because they have to send it somewhere else, the quality degrades by the time it gets to people a lot of the time. We want to use the film to talk about that too.” >>





"INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE IS A HUGE CONTRIBUTOR TO CLIMATE CHANGE."

- CLAIRE WEISSBLUTH

FEMALE REPRESENTATION

One thing that sets Weissbluth's film apart from other cannabis films is that it supports the message of why the small farmers are important, but there is also a conscious representation of female cultivators and the roles they play.

is just like an amazing cook. And just like multitasking all the time... they're all moms, they're all raising animals, they're all like, managing a million things at once."

For Weissbluth, the contributions of women in the cannabis industry haven't

caring for the Earth and creating medicine for people is important."

For Weissbluth and Dodd, the problems they saw in the cannabis industry gave them the courage to tackle regenerative farming and spread the message.

"I do a lot of genetic work with cannabis and breed seeds for lots of different outcomes, whether it's for good hash or certain terpene profiles or certain cannabinoid profiles, certain resistance or strength, all of that," Dodd says. "And so I ended up going to a lot of events around the world and I just saw this like, the way marketing was happening, and all this crap that's not really good for the plants or the Earth that people are being sold on. And I just kind of wanted to figure out a way to flip that and make environmentally thoughtful and community-minded mutualistic ideas cool."

A 20-minute screening of the film was unveiled at the National Cannabis

FLOWERS IN BLOOM AT GREEN SOURCE GARDENS.



▲
PINKLEBERRY



▲
KOFFEBERRY



▲
ALIENS AND CREAM

"Liz [Mahmood] from Green Source Gardens, she's an amazing artist," Weissbluth says. "And she actually drew the triangle logo that we're using. She created that and she does all kinds of art for their farm, Green Source. Blair [AuClair] from Radicle Herbs

always been highlighted. So to her, it was important to give them equal representation.

"In the trailer, actually, it's even more female voices. We didn't set out to do that intentionally. But somehow, yeah, it just happened. Having that perspective on

Festival in Washington, D.C., on April 23, with another screening at Ecology Center in Los Angeles in August. Private screenings are set to be announced soon. 

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WORK'N'ROLL: CANNABIS COWORKING IN NYC

A pot-loving political refugee hopes to connect the cannabis and coworking communities.

by Andrew Ward

As cannabis legalization incrementally creeps into New York's reality, a plethora of pot-centric offerings have launched or soon will.

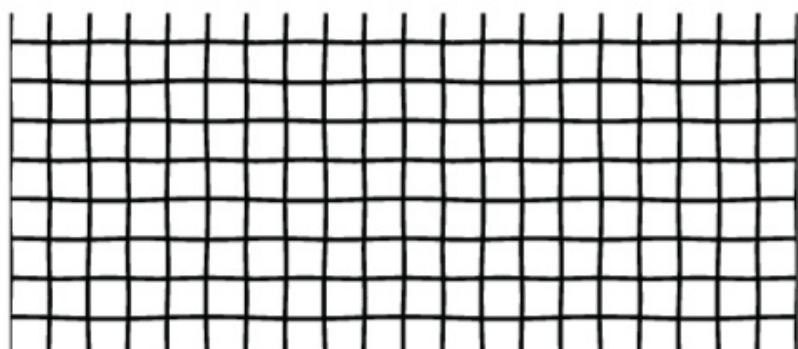
As of late summer, more than 100 licensed farmers have begun cannabis cultivation for upcoming sales, expected to start in late 2022 or early 2023. The state approved its first round of processor licenses in mid-August, awarding 15 existing hemp companies to conduct the first legal THC extractions. Regulations are also taking incremental shape. The state cannabis control board approved emergency testing regulations in August, a move believed to open up the applications for testing labs.

At the same time, the unlicensed gray market continues to surge. Dispensaries have bloomed across the state. Consumption lounges are selling weed and offering smoke spots even in midtown Manhattan. Trucks are parked

all over the place, selling likely untested pot to tourists and residents hard up for a better connect.

Much is left to be determined as summer 2022 winds down. The sweltering summer humidity only adds to the sweat many would-be operators feel as they wait on additional critical regulations to be announced. Julia Deviatkina is one of those operators. Though, after her experience with the state so far, she's already pivoted to building a professional community less directly focused on cannabis than her previous endeavor.

Deviatkina was one of the dozens of statewide operators to allegedly receive a cease and desist letter from the New York Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) regarding her Brooklyn-based lounge, Freaky Dog, in July. As devastating as the news was to the pot-focused venture and its community, she was prepared, already taking steps to create a cannabis consumption space for working professionals and budding brands. >>





▲
WORK'N'ROLL FOUNDER AND CEO JULIA
DEVIATKINA THRIVES IN HER WORKSPACE.

A REFUGEE'S JOURNEY

● Cannabis was not readily available to Deviatkina growing up in Russia. Her first exposure happened as a teen while attending school in Germany.

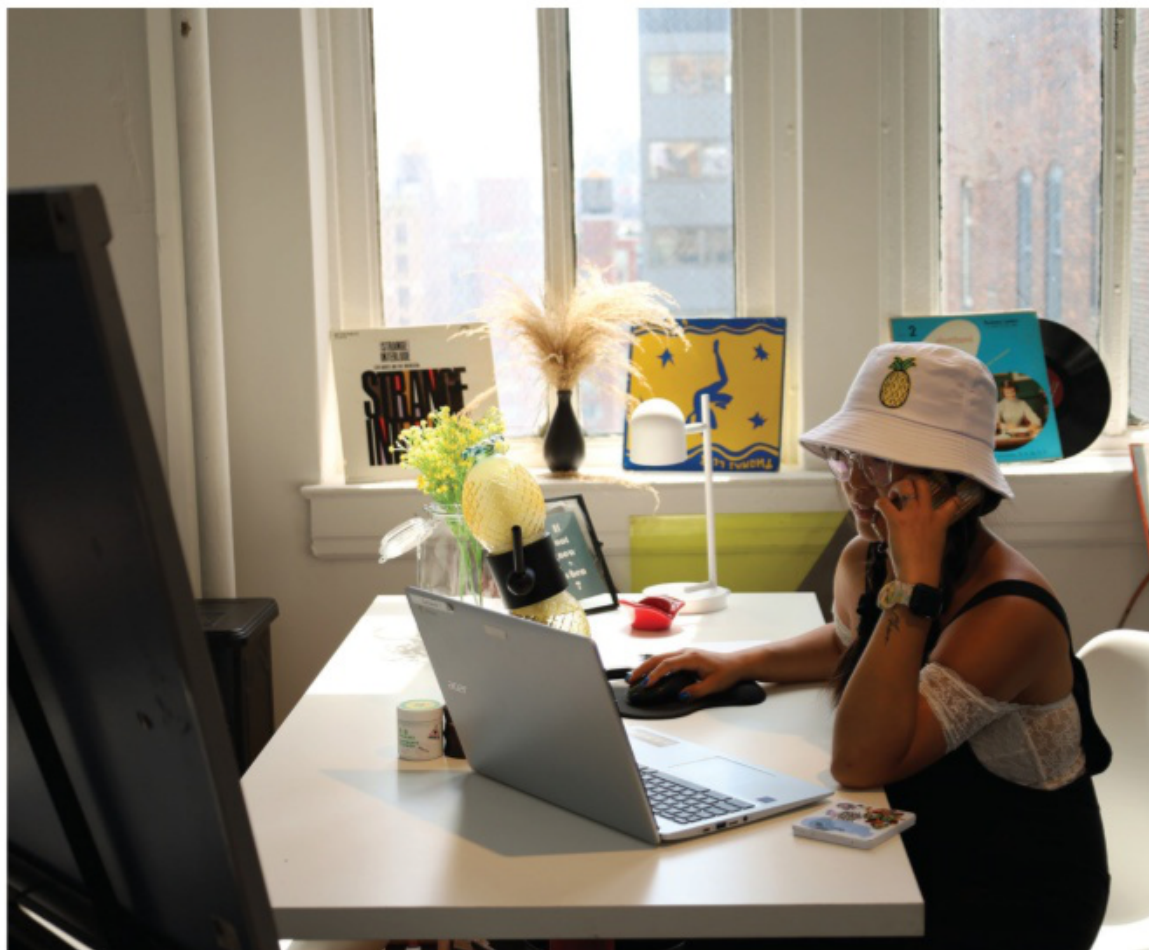
"Everyone was smoking there, and I was like 'What is this,'" she told *High Times* in August.

At first, she feared her classmate's pot smoking, believing in the propaganda. Soon enough, she inhaled and ultimately fell in love with the plant and its community.

After school and back in Russia, she took careful steps to grow a few plants. The cultivation allowed her to avoid the few "shady people" selling weed. More importantly, it introduced her to strains and cultivars.

"We didn't even know there were strains," she said of the Russian weed offerings.

Travels to Amsterdam led her to grow strains like AK-47 and Lowrider. Around that time, she and her friends would jokingly envision a life with a cannabis career, "But no one was taking that seriously."



**"YOU GET
YOUR WORK
DONE IN A
CLEAN, SAFE
ENVIRONMENT
WHILE YOU
CAN ROLL AND
SMOKE."**

- JULIA DEVIATKINA

Rather than pursuing pot professionally, Deviatkina focused on industrial design. Life was good, consisting of working, occasionally inventing, and traveling. But political tensions would intensify over the years. Five years ago, she and her Ukrainian husband felt the political pressure was too much, and they moved to the United States.

Settled in New York City, the couple witnessed the state's evolution from medical to adult-use cannabis laws. She continued to design while watching reform take place. In March 2021, when then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed adult-use legislation into law, she knew it was time to take what was once a stoner's pipe dream into reality.

"I knew I had all these cannabis startup ideas, but I was kind of scared," Deviatkina said, feeling the anti-cannabis stigma and pressure of her past.

She pushed through the anxiety and launched Freaky Dog in early 2021, becoming one of the city's emerging private member cannabis consumption lounges. The Sunset Park, Brooklyn legal smoke shop and unlicensed lounge quickly earned a reputation for its quality cannabis and community-building efforts. >>



CANAMO

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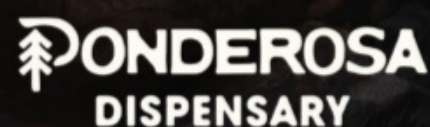
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CEASE & RESIST

● Momentum was going strong for Freaky Dog. A Manhattan location had launched, but just a few weeks into operations, the OCM would include the business as a recipient in a list of cease and desist letters. Deviatkina claims to have never gotten a letter and found out after a friend and community member notified her of an undated PDF version of the letter appearing online.

With the store's Brooklyn location exposed, Deviatkina shut down both sites the same day she became aware of the letter. While compliance was part of the decision, she also feared putting her all-women staff at higher risks of violence, with dispensaries being a common target for burglaries and looting.

"They put everyone in danger of getting robbed," she said of the OCM's decision.

The legal smoke shop remains open.

Pained by the closure, Deviatkina was not deterred. Plans were already in motion to create a coworking space for professionals, one focused on community building that went beyond a website's mission statement. As an immigrant looking for a community in a new country, coworking spaces were considered a place for community building and finding business partners and friends. All too often, she didn't feel that was the outcome.

"That was a little bit of a struggle at first," she recalled. >>





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MERGING CANNABIS & COWORKING

Deviatkina wanted pot to play a prominent part in the space but not be the focal point. At Work'n'roll, she envisioned professionals being able to consume on-site, get work done, and meet like-minded people. At the same time, she wanted to offer a relaxing place for professionals to work and thrive without feeling the pressure to consume cannabis.

In May 2022, Work'n'roll launched in downtown Manhattan. Nestled high off the street in a discreet multi-story building, you'd never know a swanky pot-friendly professional space operated there unless you looked for it.

Taking an elevator several floors up, you're greeted by a large lounge entrance. The ample, brightly lit space is complete with various cannabis merch, including some of the smoke shop's most beloved pieces, like a Stündenglass pineapple globe infuser and classic video games. The coworking space operates strictly on a bring your own cannabis (BYOC) policy. No cannabis sales occur on-site.

Two connecting doors stand on opposite sides of the main room. In one is the rolling room, a more casual space where members can consume pot and converse. The other room offers a quieter setting for professionals to focus on work. Lush in light and filled with various seating options and a stage, the workroom resembles most typical coworking spaces, including free coffee access. There's also a stage and PA system for live events, like after-hours speed networking. Additional perks include free access to 3D printing and vinyl cutting machines and rooms for podcast recordings and private meetings.



“WE CALL OURSELVES AN INCUBATOR ALREADY BECAUSE WE ARE HELPING WITH THE NETWORKING, CONNECTING SPECIALISTS, AND PROVIDING ALL THE TOOLS THAT CANNABIS ENTREPRENEURS MIGHT NEED.”

- JULIA DEVIATKINA

The combination of classic coworking trappings and cannabis culture is intentional. Deviatkina considers coworking her passion with cannabis not far behind. A former freelancer, she used to design coworking spaces, always noting what she'd do to improve the environment, allowing members to grow their network and businesses. To achieve the goal, the space embraces an incubator mindset, hoping to facilitate conversations and possible collaborations.

“We call ourselves an incubator already because we are helping with the networking, connecting specialists, and providing all the tools that cannabis entrepreneurs might need,” said Deviatkina.

Incubator support, like marketing services and features in company newsletters, are also available. A *Shark Tank*-inspired pitch series is in the works with hopes for a fall launch at the coworking space and on YouTube. >>





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COMMUNITY TAKES SHAPE

● Maintaining and rebuilding the community after Freaky Dog's closure has been difficult, but success is reportedly coming. Notable cannabis names like Berner have stopped in, as have famous comedians like Mark Normand.

Entry is currently limited to members who must first apply online for free. Once approved, members can pay \$200 for monthly access. A \$30 day rate will get you into both rooms, and \$15 will give access to just the rolling room. Prices will increase after an early member period wraps. The coworking space is currently open most working hours from Monday to Friday, with the goal to eventually open 24/7.

A handful of members floated in over several hours on a late Wednesday afternoon. Kym "Kym B" Byrnes, co-founder of cannabis brand TribeTokes, enjoys having "a place where you can get out of your regular environment and join this incubator of startup people from all different walks of life."

She added, "You get your work done in a clean, safe environment while you can roll and smoke."

Byrnes considers supporting a women-owned cannabis venture an added incentive.

Colleen Hughes, founder of the firm Creative Consulting Consortium, was working at the space for the first time that day. Living outside of the city and without an office in town, she enjoyed the balance of professional and personable.

"I like the fact that there's a work mode and a social mode and that you can pick and choose and move back and forth," she said, noting the space offered customization to a person's unique preferences.

Ryan Lepore, a New York cannabis advocate and the director of business development for telemedicine service PrestoDoctor, said you could find quality products in many New York businesses these days. Finding a quality source with an equally enjoyable setting is more complicated.

He said the allure of smoking in public would eventually fade, with thriving businesses being able to appeal as a place to visit regardless of consumption.

"People eventually will phase out [the consumption element], and then they'll start realizing, recognizing how this fits into their life," he said.

Community building continues online, with social media being the only marketing efforts to date, instead relying on word-of-mouth marketing. The company's Instagram includes over 15,000 followers and more than 2,400 on TikTok. With both platforms often deleting cannabis accounts, Deviatkina said the key to community growth has been similar to Work'n'roll's approach: minimizing but accepting cannabis.

"We're not showing pot, we're not showing people consuming," she said, adding the content is more geared towards the "if you know, you know" crowd. She also reports having had no run-ins with law enforcement or cannabis regulators since opening.

CERTAINLY UNCERTAIN NEXT STEPS

● Deviatkina and Work'n'roll are about as sure of their next steps as one can be in a semi-legal marketplace with undetermined regulations.

She said that long-term planning isn't possible without clear rules and regulations. In the short term, the primary focus for the bootstrapped venture is partnership development, seeking out like-minded financial backers. Membership growth will serve as the next focus starting in the fall.

A fan of the Amsterdam model, Deviatkina hopes to see coffeeshops, lounges, and similar venues allowed to sell small quantities of cannabis, believing the parameter is critical to consumption lounge success in America. She also commended the state for emphasizing operators with previous business experience.

"They just wanna hustle," she said of inexperienced would-be applicants. "They wanna make quick money."

How an operation like Work'n'roll fits into the licensing equation remains to be seen. No matter the outcome, plans are to stay compliant.

"If we are a place that needs a license, of course, we're gonna apply," she said.

She added that opening the coworking space is a dream she hopes to see replicated in numerous locations.

For all the setbacks and uncertainties created so far, Deviatkina feels now is the perfect time to be opening Work'n'roll.

"They need a community; they need a space," she said, highlighting the importance of networking and business development at this stage of the industry's maturation. **HT**

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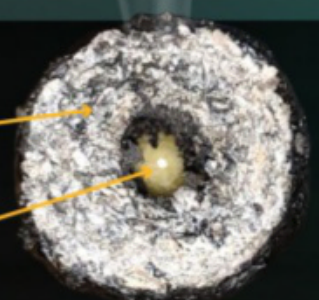
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- Annie,

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Pot for Patriots

"I'm a retired Army veteran who started growing plants."

- Andy



HIGH TIMES





PHOTO: RACHEL BURKONS, @SMOKESIPSAVOR



ON THE BACK COVER



ARTWORK: BY SAVINA MONET, @SAVINAMONET

"The image was taken by @KurengWorkx of model @dalyopbenelux. The art was inspired by the divine feminine and influenced by the lineage of cannabis and other healing plants. In addition to nugs and fan leaves, we have Golden Teacher mushrooms, salvia (sage), cedar, and chamomile. The clouds block the model's face as a symbolic representation of her divinity and she carries a lit joint as a tool for anointing." - Savina Monet

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The Royal Highness of Hash Making

The Dank Duchess describes her outstanding career, from the first time she dabbed with Frenchy Cannoli to her unique perspective as a successful writer, and her journeys as a hash maker in Spain. Now she's an established hash maker and cannabis growing consultant looking toward a bright future in the New York cannabis industry.

90

The Intersection of Weed & Women's Health

After Mennlay Golokeh Aggrey developed her cannabis and public relations career, she partnered with cannabis-infused women's health product brand Whoopi & Maya. Now she's paving the way to launch her own brand called Xula, which targets the many symptoms of menstruation to provide relief for women everywhere.

100

Against the Grain

The musical works of Santigold transcend all genre boundaries—from hip-hop to new wave and '80s pop. Santigold talks about her sensitivity to the energies around her, especially during the pandemic, and how her newest album, *Spirituals*, focuses on "ascension, transcendence, and multidimensionality."



110

Pot in the Pantry

Inspired by a healthy way to help treat her mother's asthma and allergies, Potli co-founder and CEO Felicity Chen created infused honey, harvested from bees on her parent's property. Now, Potli offer numerous infused items, such as olive oil and sriracha—and continues to promote how easy it is to make infused food at home.

The Royal
Highness
of
Hash
Making



The Dank Duchess dishes on her deep love for resin and reflects on her rise to international acclaim as a hash maker, consultant, and educator.

By Mary Jane Gibson





“I fell into caressing the hash the way when I’m writing, I want to caress words about hash. Hash making is so visceral. And when done well, it’s so beautiful. The aesthetics are mind-blowing—and the effects. Whew!”

- The Dank Duchess

The swirl of excitement around developments in the cannabis industry is at an all-time high, with an endless parade of biz cons and trade shows trumpeting the latest innovations in genetics, technology, equipment, and extraction. The Dank Duchess cuts through the noise with her passion for traditional hash making and her mission to educate people about the subtleties and nuances of creating the most phenomenal melt in the world.

It’s a cool gray day in Far Rockaway in Queens, New York, when we meet via video call, and The Dank Duchess is in peaceful repose on a blanket on the beach as gulls cry and waves crash in the distance. She recently moved back to New York City, where she grew up as a first-generation Panamanian American.

“I moved away at 17,” she says. “And 26 years later, I’m home.”

Duchess speaks thoughtfully, with the slightly formal tone of an educator, as she unfurls the details of her life and career in cannabis. After graduating from Howard University in Washington D.C., where she studied mathematics and psychology, Duchess moved to Miami, where she smoked weed for the first time.

“I didn’t have my first puff of cannabis until I was out of college for two years,” she says. “And it was because I had this boyfriend, who I thought was pretty brilliant, but I didn’t understand why he smoked so much weed because weed was going to kill you. Right? Everyone knew that.”

Nevertheless, one day she felt the pull to try it when one of his glass pieces struck her as particularly beautiful. >>



“It called me,” she says. “And I felt like anything that could be associated with it couldn’t be that bad. So I had my first puff, and yeah, it’s cliché, but my life changed. I suddenly went from a binary perspective, where everything was very black and white, to seeing all these different shades of gray—it was almost a visual opening up of doors. I was amazed.”

Very soon after that, Duchess started growing her own cannabis. But after a decade of growing in Miami, she wanted to shake off the stresses of living in a state where simple possession of a joint could land you in jail. She considered moving to Seattle, but “it was so gray it made me sad,” she laughs. So instead, she chose Oakland for its sunnier weather and because the city had passed an ordinance making adult cannabis offenses Oakland’s lowest law enforcement priority.

“I knew that I wasn’t ever gonna be worrying about any kind of legality—and that made me flourish,” Duchess says. “I took that opportunity to grow a good amount of weed on my roof.”

Duchess wanted to write about cannabis as well. She was an avid magazine reader and felt weed media, in particular, failed to include diverse voices and perspectives. Soon after landing in Oakland, she went to a HempCon event, where she spotted the industry pioneer and hash-making legend Frenchy Cannoli. She knew Frenchy was a contributor to *Weed World Magazine*, so she seized her chance and asked him to coffee, not suspecting that the meeting would transform her life.

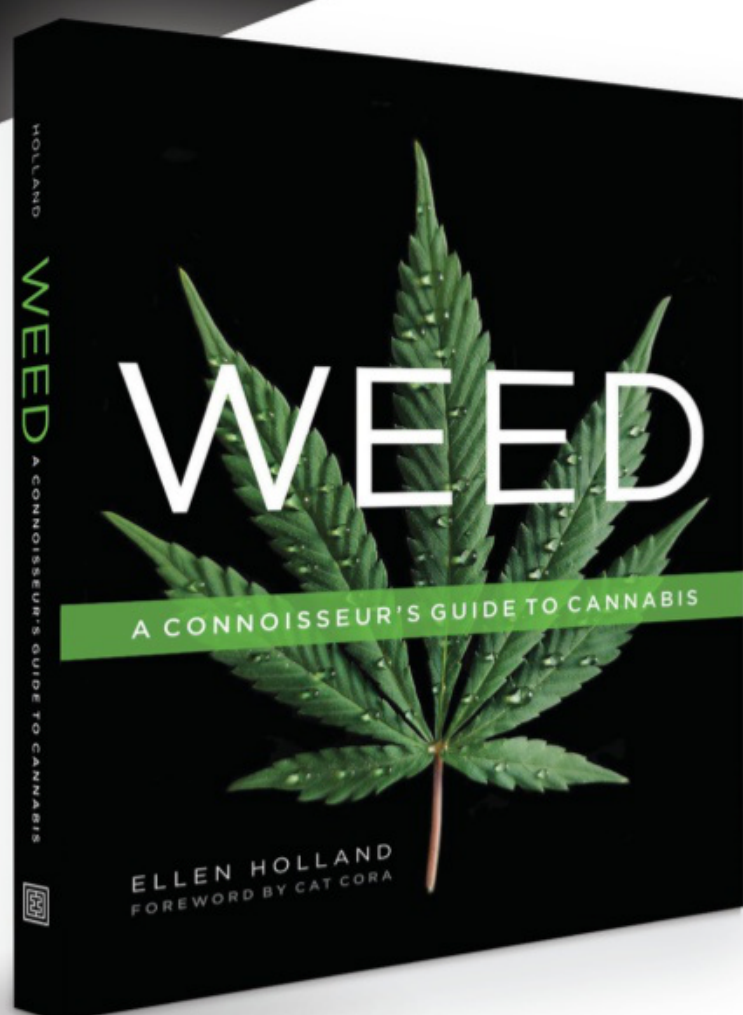
They’d briefly met at a *High Times* Cannabis Cup in June of that year, where she remembers being dazzled by the superabundance of concentrates at that event: “BHO was flowing like a river.” She saw a huge crowd gathered around a booth and made her way to the front. >>



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By Ellen Holland



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HASH CRAFTED BY
THE DANK DUCHESS.



PHOTO: COURTESY THE DANK DUCHESS

“I expected to see the most beautiful golden nuggets, dabs, crumble... and all I saw was chunks of chocolate. I was super disappointed because I don’t like chocolate.”

She said as much as she turned to leave, “and this little voice says, ‘This is not chocolate. This is *hashish*.’” It was Frenchy.

“So I got my first dab of hashish, and it was awesome,” Duchess says. “And I took a picture with this little French man and went about my business.”

A few weeks later, she moved to California. She knew that besides growing great weed, she could offer a writer’s perspective that was sorely lacking.

“In 2014, I felt like there was nobody writing for any of the cannabis magazines who really related to my situation,” Duchess says. “And I don’t feel like that’s changed much at all. Part of the issue is that there are cultural concerns we’d rather have addressed by people of that culture. You don’t see many Black and brown faces in cannabis media.”

As a longtime subscriber of *Weed World*, she was determined to write for the mag. Frenchy was an esteemed contributor, with highly regarded articles like “The Lost Art of the Hashishin” and multi-part series on the origins of concentrate and cannabis *terroir*. Duchess knew they’d have plenty in common, but she was surprised by just how much: “We were both web designers in the



PHOTO: NATE HAMMER, HOMEGROWN CANNABIS CO.

’90s; Frenchy went on to do purse design in Japan, and I did landscape design, so we traded stories of being hardcore designers.”

Frenchy asked if she’d be interested in writing for *Weed World*—on one condition. She’d need to learn how to make hash. “I’m always honest about this,” Duchess says, shaking her head at the memory. >>

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“I’ve found that my approach has been key in reaching women who often feel mansplained to. I’ve told stories about wins and losses, and my life journey is the background for exploring mind, body, and soul.”

- The Dank Duchess





“I was disappointed that Frenchy felt that for me to write about hash, I’d have to learn to make hash because I didn’t care about that. I moved to California to contribute to cannabis media and to grow more weed. Hash did not appeal to me.”

However, she didn’t want to miss an opportunity, so a month later, Duchess found herself in Frenchy’s basement, making hash for the first time.

“It was Sept. 10, 2014. What we used to do back then was, after the hash was collected from the plant, we would air

dry it. That took seven days. On the 17th, I pressed the hash. I celebrate Sept. 17 every year because, on that day, I knew that there was no way I wasn’t going to do this for the rest of my life. It was everything.”

Under the gray Far Rockaway sky, Duchess glows with the recollection, her voice warm.

“I fell into caressing the hash the way when I’m writing, I want to caress words about hash. Hash making is so visceral. And when done well, it’s so beautiful.

The aesthetics are mind-blowing—and the effects. Whew!”

Thus began her hash career, as she learned the traditional art of hash making using a method called bottle tech, now colloquially known as “Frenchy tech,” in which a hot bottle of water is rolled over hash to both homogenize and partially decarboxylate it. Armed with newfound knowledge, Duchess started profiling hash makers for *Weed World*. She’d learn their backstories and methods and sample their melts. >>

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“Every single hash maker I interviewed contributed to my hash-making style,” Duchess says, “and Frenchy’s foundation is a good 60 or 70%.”

She’s written over 100,000 words about dozens of hash makers, production, growing, and experiencing the wonders of hashish in all its forms. She’s posted much of her learning online, with “how-to” videos on YouTube and Instagram.

“People I’ve never met thank me for teaching them hash making through the internet,” Duchess says.

She also posts about how she integrates cannabis, hashish, and psychedelics into her everyday life.

“I’ve found that my approach has been key in reaching women who often feel mansplained to,” she says. “I’ve told stories about wins and losses, and my life journey is the background for exploring mind, body, and soul.”

Duchess found a second home in the cannabis community when she visited Barcelona in 2015.

“I was recognized in San Sebastian by one of my favorite hash makers—Edu, a.k.a. Blue Ice,” she says. “That set off a series of introductions that have proven immeasurably beneficial in my growth as a processor.”

Hash-loving Spain has been the perfect environment for Duchess to flourish in, both as a hash maker and a writer. It’s also the only place she’s ever run afoul of the law—in March 2017, she was arrested for hash possession and spent two days in solitary confinement.

“I was released with a warning to not get into any trouble in Spain,” she says. >>

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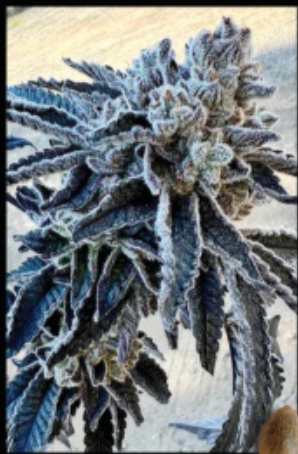
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But in September 2018, she was served by the U.S. Department of Justice with a notice that she was being charged with international drug trafficking and could face five years in prison.

“My tremendously good lawyer had that reduced to two years,” Duchess says. “I had the option of taking a two-year ban or returning to Spain to fight my case.”

After years of seeding her place in the Barcelona cannabis club ecosystem, she was reluctant to turn away, so she fought the case and was acquitted in February 2019.

Now that she’s back in her hometown, Duchess plans to continue teaching the traditional style of hash making as a consultant. She’s also considering collaborating with growers on limited offerings, rather than seeking a New York license for herself, she says: “I’d like to be able to touch resin all over the state.” In addition to her consulting and educational work, Duchess plans to build a content platform focused on high-quality concentrates and their makers and another focused on Black and brown women in cannabis. She also has a line of eyewear

coming out in collaboration with Method Seven, called “The Duchess,” designed for indoor growers with a sense of style.

Duchess is also keeping her eye on regulators and lobbyists as legal weed comes online.

“I feel like the future for New York is bright,” she says. “It’s such a huge market that opportunities for influence on the global scale are infinite. What happens here influences everything. And I feel like right here is where I need to be.” **HT**

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The Intersection of Weed & Women's Health

Author and cannabis advocate Mennlay Golokeh Aggrey shares how her unique background in journalism and growing buds has put her at the epicenter of minority ownership, weed, and women's bodies.

By Stephen Laddin





M

Mennlay Golokeh Aggrey is logging into our Google Meet interview from Mexico City when the audio cuts out on my end. While I figure out the technical difficulties, she smiles politely and laughs—“That’s why I don’t use AirPods because they always play me.”

Aggrey is no stranger to being played, having endured a less-than-ideal work experience in radio prior to venturing into cannabis full time, after which she received threats from a neighbor who was going to rat her out to the authorities. In an industry rife with hypocrisy—thousands waste away in jail

cells for weed-related crimes that would be classified as “normal” purchases in legalized states—Aggrey is passionate about keeping those currently incarcerated for minor weed offenses from continuing to be played by the justice system.

“I think it’s shameful that the industry has been built on the backs of people who are in prison or who have at least paved the way when it comes to their freedom, their family, or their jobs, and yet they can’t even be represented in that space,” she said. “So it’s this bittersweet place that we’re in.”

Born into an immigrant family and growing up outside Baltimore and Staten Island, Aggrey always had an affinity for horticulture despite it stereotypically being associated as something “white.” She graduated from university in 2005 and moved to Humboldt County,

ventured down to the Bay Area, and then tried to live a non-weed life in New York before moving to Mexico City.

In Humboldt, despite her journalism aspirations, growing weed quickly became the norm.

“All of my friends were like, ‘Why are you not growing weed? Everyone moves out here to grow weed.’”

But her purpose behind venturing to Humboldt was the draw to nature, not cannabis.

“My first apartment had blackberry gardens, butterflies, hummingbirds, and a very picturesque, off-the-grid, back-to-nature lifestyle,” she said.

And while the opportunity to grow weed was right before her eyes, its profoundness was lost on Golokeh Aggrey until years down the line.

“I didn’t recognize that [cannabis] was an actual career opportunity—that Humboldt was almost this promised land, this mecca of growing weed. I never thought in a million years that that would be my career.”

In 2006, after a year and a half of living in Humboldt, Golokeh Aggrey fully immersed herself in cannabis cultivation. At that time, while supplies were readily available, adult-use weed was still illegal at the state level, so it came with extreme secrecy and paranoia. She moved her operation to the Bay Area but had a neighbor threaten to call the cops, so she shut everything down and began to re-think what her trajectory in cannabis would look like.

Starting with blogging, Aggrey slowly began to transform her cannabis career, allowing it to organically evolve toward the intersection of weed and public relations. “It was two backgrounds—ad hoc horticulture and journalism coming together at the right moment.”

The “right moment” blossomed into a partnership with Whoopi & Maya, the medical cannabis brand from Whoopi Goldberg and Maya Elisabeth, where Golokeh Aggrey was helping them develop their brand to focus heavily on periods, showcasing them in a way that told a narrative through copy and visual content. >>

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"I had been friends with Maya

for a long time just being in the cannabis space in Northern California. I had just moved to Mexico City at the time so it wasn't like we were all hanging out, it was more of a freelance satellite situation. But because of the day-one OG in me, I was constantly slinging free products to people, having them try the cacao when they were on their periods—just really doing my own anecdotal research."

Her research created a desire to educate other women about weed and how they were using it for their bodies.

"There's so much education there, and it wasn't really the thing back then," she said. "All peoples have an innate sense of growing things and being able to steward the land, which helped me research in an anthropological sort of lane how this plant [cannabis] came to be and how my interaction with it is sort of part of history in a way. While it was illuminating knowing there's so many women in history hundreds of years back who had used cannabis for their cramps, cycles, postpartum depression, etc.—it was validating for my own cannabis consumption that I'd been partaking in all of my life."

Part of Golokeh Aggrey's mark on the cannabis space began to yield larger buds soon after, with the creation of her book *The Art of Weed Butter* and the formation of her female-centered weed company, Xula (pronounced Ch-u-la), which focuses on using cannabis to help with women's periods.

"With Xula, it had evolved into this thing where I had done a lot of internal

research. To be a person with a uterus, you don't stop after your birthing years, you hopefully exist and continue through the cycles. For most people when it comes to most symptoms—including inflammation—they occur when you're stressed and not balanced. Having that overall balance is one of the ways that you find cannabis being so helpful in maintaining homeostasis."

Xula focuses on how cannabis and other herbs can help with things like temperature regulation and pain relief pertaining to menopause.

"We're trying to tackle and understand more about the symptoms of PMS, mood swings, bloating, irritability and insomnia—things that happen right before your menstrual phase," she said. "After you stop bleeding, it becomes more about hormonal balance because everything has gone up and down at this point, and you're shedding all of these cells in your body in preparation for this child that's not there. I'm not a scientist, but I think really investigating those other ancillary ailments was really powerful and really validating because we saw evidence of herb helping with symptoms of menstruation and having a womb."

"I sometimes wonder if Whoopi & Maya was too soon for its own good in the cannabis space, and I think that sometimes about Xula, too. It's been about two years, and we've seen a lot of brands pop up, some of which—no shade—claim to help with cramps, and it's just CBD—like 700 mg. I don't really see the efficacy there, but I think it helps create a broader conversation around [women and cannabis]."

Golokeh Aggrey believes there is an underserved market when it comes to cannabis and women's health.

"Ninety percent of people who go through periods and cycles have an issue at some point. Fifty percent of the global population are having these cycles, so here is this huge market and this really underserved segment of people who just aren't able to do anything but *maybe* smoke some weed or take some Midol. I'm not Mother Theresa, but I think it was a win-win to be able to [bring more plant medicine to women for their periods].">>>







“I think it’s shameful that the industry has been built on the backs of people who are in prison or who have at least paved the way when it comes to their freedom, their family, or their jobs, and yet they can’t even be represented in that space.”

– Mennlay Golokeh Aggrey

plant medicine for our bodies. Bringing plant medicine to the forefront of caring for yourself has been really important and something we’re trying to do. Because really, there’s two stigmas: One against weed and one against [women’s] bodies and having agency over them. It’s been powerful work but challenging trying to navigate that next step forward.

High Times: What are you currently working on to let people know your organization exists and is here to help?

Mennlay Golokeh Aggrey: We had a campaign this past 420 called “Womb Weed Revolution.” I did this quick photoshoot in my apartment, mixing raspberries and beets to make fake blood—really diving into the fact that people who are having periods are using cannabis, not just 15 girls in Santa Rosa. We [older women] are also part of this holiday, and everyone was shocked that there was a non-intoxicating weed product you could use for your hormones.

It’s kind of sad that a lot of people who were having these experiences all their lives don’t really know the difference between PMS and menstruation. PMS being something that happens all month long in different fluctuations, and menstruation being from days 1–6 when you’re bleeding and having cramps. We just want to make sure we’re providing that weed baseline education of what your body does before you try to help it with other things.

For as long as we’ve known, we’ve been using

In terms of that next step, how much is the element of inclusion woven into everything that you do?

It’s been pivotal. We were seeing numbers increase in terms of women and minorities who were holding these executive roles in the cannabis space, but that number has gone down due to COVID, and—just in as in any industry—there aren’t many of us. Maybe less than 5% are Black executives—and that’s men, women, non-binary, and so on, so part of existing is being able to maintain a very tiny fragment of legacy for whoever else thinks this life is for them. And that’s huge for us. It’s not just a talking point, it’s the actual reality of who we are and how we exist in this industry.

I have a family member who’s incarcerated, and when my neighbor in San Francisco came to me and was like, “Are you growing weed? Should I call the police?” I immediately thought, “Damn, this is it. My life is over.”

Thankfully, I didn’t have children or own anything, but I can’t even imagine what it must be like to lose custody of your children or not be able to get a job. I think about it even now, if I wanted to be able to adopt, I don’t know that I really could. >>



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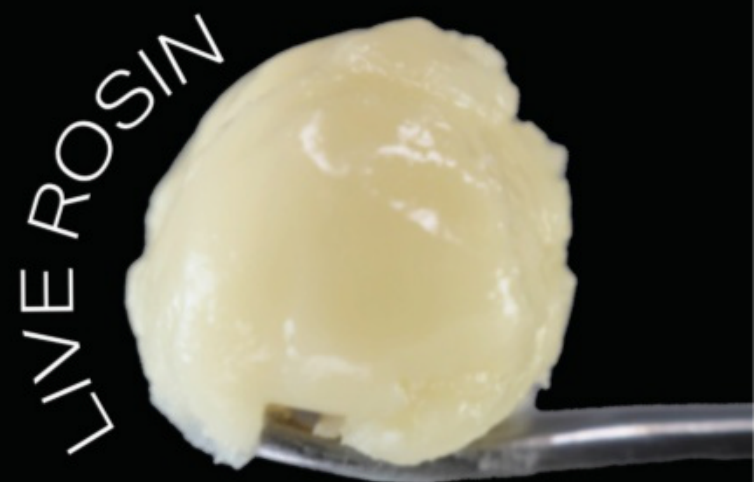
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“Really, there’s two stigmas: One against weed and one against [women’s] bodies and having agency over them.”

– Mennlay Golokeh Aggrey

What does a better future in the cannabis industry look like to you and how do you fit into it?

I think a better future is sort of showing itself right now. Throughout this interview, you didn’t once say, “What is it like to be a Black founder?” It’s just being a founder. Period. Those kinds of things make me hopeful.

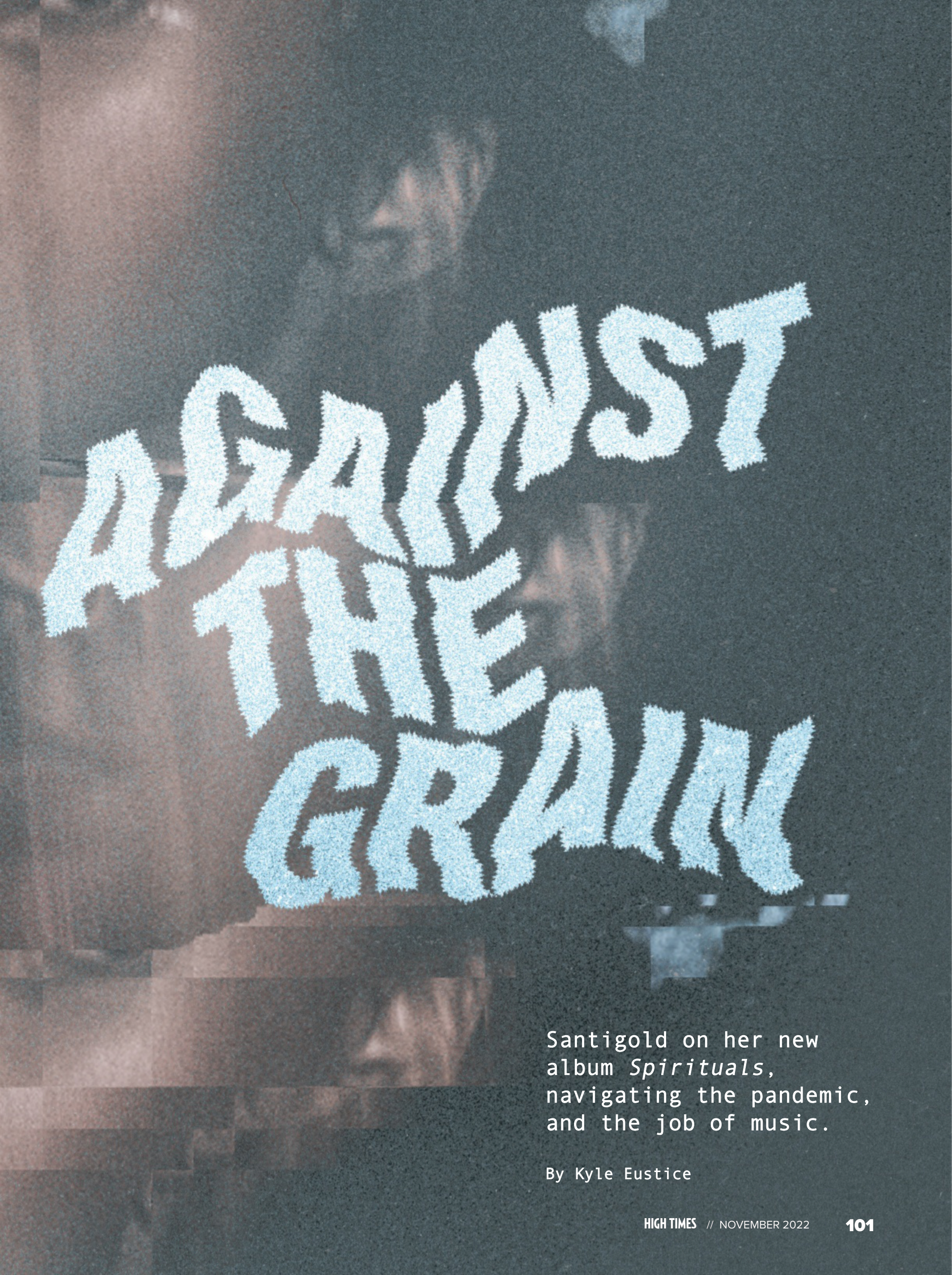
Are you asked that a lot?

Yes. And then they’re mad at me because I said, “It means being a founder.” Not being forced into that trope is something I’m hopeful for in the future. Trying to legalize cannabis federally in the United States makes me slightly hopeful.

As a culture though, weed definitely had its height from 2008 to 2020. Now, it’s about mushrooms—as it should be—and other different psychedelic treatments when it comes to mental health, so I do hope that [cannabis] doesn’t become this “trend” that sort of phases out. I just hope it means that people who are in prison for weed can at least get out. I don’t understand why that’s so hard, but I’m hopeful for it, too. **HT**

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SPIRITUALS

Santigold on her new album *Spirituals*, navigating the pandemic, and the job of music.

By Kyle Eustice



Santigold is a gift. The genre-smashing artist has an innate musical ability to transcend any imposed boundaries, resulting in an enticing gumbo of hip-hop, reggae, new wave, and '80s pop, to name a few. Her fourth studio album, *Spirituals*, released in September, finds the Philly native once again embracing her experimental tendencies and further establishing her inimitable sound, all with a fresh perspective.

After all, it's been a long four years since she released *I Don't Want: The*

Gold Fire Sessions mixtape. Not only is she the mother to three children (including twins), but she also, like the rest of us, has gone through a life-altering pandemic. Beginning in March 2020, as COVID-19 began its rampage, the concert industry came to a screeching halt, forcing everyone into isolation. No more concerts. No more tours. No more insufferable nights sleeping on tour buses or enduring cramped flights. All of it—good and bad—was over. During that time, Santigold was deeply affected by the changing world around her, but it resulted in the 10 tracks that make up *Spirituals*.



"It affected my songwriting because I'm a really sensitive being as an artist," she told *High Times* via Zoom. "So, I'm very much a sponge of the energy around me. And when there was so many things happening, it was just like, there was the pandemic, fires burning everywhere, protests, police brutality and now, women's rights are being taken away and there are shootings everywhere. It's crazy times right now."

"For a person like me, I think my job as an artist is to sort of mirror culture and what's happening. So, it's my interpretation coupled with taking something from whatever other dimensions I can; whatever art comes from because half the time, I don't know that it's solely coming from me, to be honest."

As Santigold explained, the chaos, destruction, and voyage into the unknown fueled her creativity in a way she almost can't understand. To move culture forward, she aimed to create some beauty, light, and joy by mirroring what was happening. She had to accept, "This is fucked up, but I'm going to process it in this song." >>

SPIRITUALS



“I called it

SPIRITUALS

because traditional spirituals were songs that basically helped slaves in slavery—who were literally not free—experience freedom through music.”

-Santigold

products and teas, and I'll just keep going. That's what I do. The harder it is, the more I'm going to make.”

And it was definitely a struggle; she'll be the first to admit it. The demands of motherhood and a high-profile music career often didn't align, and it became a delicate dance.

“This record was about ascension, transcendence, and multidimensionality; how we are multifaceted beings and we live in a multidimensional existence,” she said. “There's so many different ways to see and think about things or to experience things. And for me, this album was literally about rising above my environment, rising above my circumstances, to sort of, at least, touch base with the higher version of myself or the universe to just know, to experience being free in an environment where I was not being free in the moment.

“I was in mom mode. I love being a mother, but I'm also an artist. And those two things sometimes do not go hand in hand because one is completely selfless and never having any time or space to yourself, and the other is all about space and time and dealing with yourself.

“I felt like I was living in this tiny little part of myself and kind of suffocating in that and, because this was during lockdown, there was nobody helping. I was wiping butts and cooking all day, every day, not even sleeping at night. It was just crazy.” >>

The result was songs such as *High Priestess* and *Shake*, which she hoped would help others process the societal madness infecting every corner of the globe and making life utterly miserable to navigate.

“Maybe in my processing of it, you can benefit from that, and you can say, ‘Hey, yeah, it did feel like that and maybe I'll process it, too,’” she continued. “Then we can find our way through it because I do think that it's important to talk about things. And for me, it's essential to talk about things and create because that is my lifeline. When things get tough, that is what gets me through it. I'm working on a book, I'm working on body

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“The job of art is to save us all and to *PUSH* us forward.”
-Santigold

But it helped point Santigold in a creative direction that could alleviate some of that pressure.

“I called it *Spirituals* because traditional spirituals were songs that basically helped slaves in slavery—who were literally not free—experience freedom through music. It lifted them up and transcended their circumstance to, ‘This is what it feels like to

be free.’ That’s what music can do. And that’s why I called it *Spirituals* because that’s what this album’s about. It’s about the pursuit of individual freedom, transcendence, creating beauty and light and finding your way to a better future.”

Santigold’s future is bright. She’s working on a plethora of projects, including a book (or, as she described, “an interesting take on a memoir”), podcast, film, and retail products. But beyond that, Santigold has a bigger mission, and it’s not an easy one. Mainstream music is undeniably clogged with hyper-sexualized female artists who sing or rap about very narrow subject matters—and that’s not to say they aren’t allowed to express themselves in that manner, but the lack of diversity among women is glaringly apparent.

“The world of music for me is a rough one,” Santigold admits. “I love making music, but it’s really hard to be an artist like me right now. I don’t feel like there’s as much support for artists trying to go against the mainstream and do something different and talk about things that are relevant to the world. I feel like the music that’s championed or held up by the mainstream is music that’s a commodity, what sells. And then the labels dictate what that is.

“So you get all this music that’s about nothing, and that’s the music that becomes the main music of culture, and it’s very sad and honestly, it’s discouraging. You spend all this time making it, and you feel so good about it, and then we have to reenter the matrix of the music industry, we’re just like, ‘Oh God, I just want to get out again.’ You just want to get out.” >>



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The irony of that statement is the industry needs women like Santigold to stick around so balance is restored. In the 1970s and '80s, music typically stood for something. Public Enemy was boldly shouting “fight the power,” Marvin Gaye wanted to know “what’s going on?” and Gil Scott-Heron put a spotlight on the civil rights movement with “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised.”

“I get it,” she said. “Everyone’s doing drugs, playing video games, and on social media because they’re just trying to escape. This world is fucking heavy right now, and it’s hard. It’s depressing. It’s discouraging. I get it. But maybe, if there was music where people were talking about how to survive it, how to uplift it and where we can go, then it wouldn’t be so depressing. And that’s the job of art. The job of art is to save us all and to push us forward. And if there are artists trying to do that who aren’t supported, then they disappear and the music suffers. Throughout history, there’s been music like that and now is probably the least that there’s ever been of

substantive, topical music. It almost doesn’t exist.”

She’s also focused on caring for herself. Now 45, she also made personal changes to her diet and overall lifestyle. Her father, who passed away from cancer at 55, was a big wake-up call to truly pay attention to what goes

into her body, but also notice the amount of stress being an artist puts on her.

“Being a musician is not a career, just to put that out there,” she said matter-of-factly. “Unless you’re one of the top people, it’s no longer a career. Nobody buys music, so you make the music for a lot of money. You spend a lot of money to make the music, then you give it away for free. Then you have to figure out 18 jobs to do to help people listen to your music because there’s 40,000 songs that come out every day on Spotify, something like that. So, you’re doing five people’s jobs. That’s how much work it is just trying to be a musician.”

From the outside looking in, Santigold handles it like a pro, and if *Spirituals* is any indication of the standard she holds herself to, she works tirelessly. But for her fans, every album is a peek into her ever-evolving creative journey and, yes, a gift. 

 santigold.com

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POT IN THE PANTRY

Potli CEO and co-founder
Felicity Chen dishes on the
value of food as medicine.

by Ashley Kern

LONG GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN CANNABIS EDIBLES WERE LIMITED simply to sweets like brownies or gummies. Brands like Potli are bringing cannabis into daily meal routines with infused kitchen pantry staples, making cannabis consumption more welcoming and accessible to consumers of all ages and experience levels.

Potli was co-founded by CEO Felicity Chen, along with her college roommate Christine Yi, with a goal to bring cannabis-infused ingredients into the kitchen. The company began with selling infused raw honey (the “Dream Honey” won first place in the CBD category at the 2021 Emerald Cup), followed by other unique cooking ingredients such as a cannabis-infused extra virgin olive oil, as well as a cannabis-infused sriracha (which also won first place at last year’s Emerald Cup in the Edibles/Savory category). More recently, the brand has begun an expansion of ready-to-eat products with its cannabis-infused shrimp chips as well (made with Potli’s infused olive oil), which won first place in the Edibles/Savory category at the Emerald Cup in 2022.

Potli products offer a fresh new way to use cannabis as a condiment.

...

Chen, a Bay Area-native, met her Potli co-founder Christine Yi when they were randomly paired as roommates during their freshman year of college on the East Coast at Boston University. During that time, Chen recalls experimenting with cannabis in their dorm room, causing the hallways to smell strongly of herb. But ultimately, she discovered how cannabis helped her on a more personal level.

“I have always been someone that has been you know, a more anxious teen and going into my college years to someone that just had a lot of energy and didn’t really know how to calm my brain,” Chen says. “It just was something that was interesting to me and calmed me.”

After graduation, Chen returned to the Bay Area and Yi remained on the East Coast, and their transition from consumers to entrepreneurs began as they worked together to develop Potli.

Although Potli became a way to keep Chen and Yi connected remotely, it was also founded as a method to help treat Chen’s mother’s asthma and allergies. When Chen returned home, she discovered that her father had learned how to keep bees in order to harvest honey for her mom.

Chen explains that her mom’s daily routine usually starts with honey and lemon. Raw honey can be added to a variety of different dishes, such as tea, oats, or smoothies, and contains beneficial antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Add cannabis into the mix, and it becomes even more useful as part of a healthy regimen.

While Chen’s mother was not interested in smoking cannabis, adding it to her honey allowed her to partake in a format that she found more familiar and comfortable.

“I’m a second generation Chinese American, meaning that like, there’s no way my mom would ever smoke weed with me. That was just a given, right?” Chen says. “But she understood the benefits of cannabis. And all of its anti-inflammatory effects through the lens of ‘This is medicine.’ And so, medicine typically is consumed with edibles. And it’s also truly the healthiest way to consume cannabis, through an edible.”

One of Potli’s main goals is to create and promote food as medicine, a philosophy that has led the company to create its best-selling infused honey products. The company’s honey harvest operation includes anywhere between 30 to 50 hives, depending on the season (honeybees are more active in spring and summer). Currently, Potli sells different infused variations of infused raw honey, such as one that contains THC, CBD, and CBN, while another contains just CBD. >>



“I’m a second generation Chinese American, meaning that like, there’s no way my mom would ever smoke weed with me.”

- Felicity Chen



...

The company has continued to expand its line of pantry essentials to include other useful ingredients as well.

Potli's Cannabis Infused Extra Virgin Olive Oil is sourced from the same region that the company gets its cannabis—Lake County, California. Their olive oil comes from Campodonico Olive Farm, among a few other local olive farms, while their cannabis comes from Aster Farms, which is well-known in the region for its dedication to transparency and organic growing practices that produce high-quality sungrown cannabis flower.

Chen believes it's crucial to promote and work with local producers in order to spotlight some of California's agricultural products.

"That's the reason why we create what we create, because our products are pretty much products that you can only find in California. And it is grown with such intention, and created with such care, and it tells a story about all of these different farmers that make it and are behind it," Chen says.

Following the success of Potli's cannabis-infused extra virgin olive oil, its cannabis-infused sriracha took the stage, offering a spicy kick to a variety of meals.

Between offering infused honey, olive oil, and sriracha, Potli already covers a wide base for experimentation.

"But these are the types of things that [you] really can make any recipe with it, right? And that's what I love, is that you can make a salad dressing to like, fried chicken,

"That's really what the company's main values are, is that we're correcting people's health and helping people feel better through the foods that they eat."

- Felicity Chen

and you can use every single ingredient and make wildly different products. You can make a soup that's really Chinese style, so like [with] tofu. So all of these things are just really, really different," Chen says.

Chen explains that she personally enjoys experimenting with different cannabis-infused dishes in the evenings.

"I love making food. That's also one of my ways that I de-stress," Chen explains. "And part of that journey is also making food with Potli goods that get me high, and then I have the best sleep ever."

In the past, Potli carried infused chili oil and apple cider vinegar products as well. Chen shared that there are plans to re-release these products soon. Chen also hinted at a new, exciting product coming in the near future. While she couldn't divulge the details just yet, she explains that it's something she's confident that the Potli community is going to love.

In the meantime, Potli's dedication to creating versatile food items will continue to lead the way in infused home cooking and healthy eating.

"We really think that through edibles and through things that you eat, health is just something that is based on what you eat. And, you know, that's the age-old adage," Chen says. "And that's really what the company's main values are, is that we're correcting people's health and helping people feel better through the foods that they eat." 

 getpotli.com





POTLI'S SICHUAN SOUTHERN **FRIED CHICKEN** WITH **HOT HONEY**

Recipe by Potli CEO and co-founder Felicity Chen

INGREDIENTS:

CHICKEN

3 chicken thighs

3 chicken drumsticks

1 1/2 cups buttermilk

1/4 cup Buffalo hot sauce (optional)

1 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon pepper

DREDGING MIXTURE

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1/4 cup cornstarch

1/2 tablespoon Potli chili oil

1 teaspoon onion powder

1 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon dried basil

1/2 teaspoon white pepper

1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1/2 tablespoon paprika

1/2 tablespoon salt

OTHER

1/2 quart vegetable oil for frying

Sichuan chili flakes for garnish

HOT HONEY

1/2 cup of Potli Dream and/or Play Honey (depending on your preference for sativa or indica)



1/4 cup Potli sriracha

3 tablespoons soy sauce

2 tablespoons rice vinegar

1-3 clove of garlic (to taste), minced

1/2 tablespoon salt

DIRECTIONS:

FRIED CHICKEN

1. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together buttermilk, Buffalo hot sauce (optional, for added flavor), salt, and pepper in a mixing bowl. Add in chicken pieces. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate it for 4 hours.

2. When ready to cook, pour the vegetable oil in a skillet until it is about 3/4 inch deep. Heat to 350°F.

3. Prepare the breading by combining the flour, cornstarch, onion powder, garlic powder, basil, white pepper, cayenne pepper, paprika, and salt in a gallon-sized resealable plastic bag or shallow dish. Mix it thoroughly.

4. Working one at a time, remove chicken pieces from the buttermilk mixture. Shake it gently to remove the excess. Place it in the bread mix and coat thoroughly. Tap off the excess.

5. Place the breaded chicken into the 350 °F oil. Fry three or four pieces at a time. The chicken will drop the temperature of the oil so keep it as close to 350 °F as possible. Fry each piece for 14 minutes, turning each piece about halfway through, until the chicken reaches an internal temperature of 165 °F.

6. Remove from the oil and place on paper towels. Let them rest for at least 10 minutes before serving.

HOT HONEY

1. In a medium saucepan, whisk together honey, sriracha, rice vinegar, minced garlic, and salt.

2. Place your saucepan over medium-high heat and bring to a boil (stir occasionally). Once boiling is reached, reduce heat to a simmer and cook for about 10 minutes, until your sauce begins to thicken.

3. Paint hot honey over chicken or leave it on the side, and serve!



**HONORING
OLIVIA NEWTON-
JOHN**
p. 120



**AARON
RODGERS
EMBRACES
AYAHUASCA**
p. 124



CANNABIS IN THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

New Mexico's adult-use sales market looks promising so far.

By Benjamin M. Adams

ALL EYES ARE ON NEW MEXICO AS ONE OF THE NEWEST ADULT-USE cannabis markets to roll out in the U.S., and the market is off to a robust start. April 1 was opening day for adult-use cannabis retail in New Mexico, and early signs show a strong turnout.

On Aug. 4, New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham joined the cannabis control division that falls under the regulation and licensing department and announced that cannabis sales set a new record for monthly total sales the month prior, topping every previous month since sales began in April.

The New Mexico Cannabis Control Division regulates and licenses cannabis producers, manufacturers, retailers, couriers, and testing and research laboratories operating in both the medical and adult-use cannabis markets. The division also provides sales numbers monthly. During the month of July, licensed retailers in New Mexico reported \$40.3 million in cannabis sales, with adult-use cannabis sales alone that month topping \$23.4 million.

That surpassed the 420 month figures, as businesses in the state reported \$39 million in April, the

state's first month of adult-use sales. July's adult-use sales also surpassed April adult-use sales, which were up by around \$22 million.

"These numbers show that the impressive sales generated in the first month of legalized recreational cannabis sales were no fluke—and this is only the beginning," Gov. Grisham said in the announcement. "We've established a new industry that is already generating millions of dollars in local and state revenue and will continue to generate millions more in economic activity across the state, creating thousands of jobs for New Mexicans in communities both small and large."

Ben J. Lewinger is executive director of the New Mexico Cannabis Chamber of Commerce. The chamber's goal is to bring together growers, manufacturers, retailers, service providers, and cannabis-adjacent businesses to work as one collective voice.

"The way that the enabling legislation was written, it set us up for a very aggressive timeline to get to that first adult-use sale that happened on April 1," Lewinger told *High Times*. "And there's definitely still a lot of work to do from a policy perspective, to ensure that all the right supports are in place for New Mexico to quickly scale to a fully mature cannabis industry. But if you're looking at all signs from the first four months of adult-use sales, the promise of the cannabis industry being one, it's kind of a game-changer for New Mexico, and it looks like it's going to be realized." >>

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The advertisement features a collage of various cannabis products including Jet Fuel Gelato, Apples and Bananas, Gum, Ice Pack Purple Buntz, Rainbow Zkittlez, and ZeBert. The central text 'Pressure Pack' is in a large, stylized, rainbow-colored font. Below it, 'FEEL THE PRESSURE' is written in a bold, white font. At the bottom, the website 'PRESSUREPACKMI.COM' is listed with social media icons.

The state's most populated areas—Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Cruces, Hobbs, and Rio Rancho—were home to the highest sales numbers that month, making up the largest portion by far.

About half of the state's dispensaries are located in Albuquerque. According to the city of Albuquerque's interactive map, as of late August, 128 retail businesses are approved to operate in the city.

"We have micro licenses, which is like our state's version of equity licenses," Lewinger said. "And the way that our framework works is anybody who submits a completed application gets a license. So it's not like we have equity quotas, which I think has been a huge failure in other states from a social justice perspective."

Shooting for a level playing field, so that not all license holders have to be wealthy and/or well-connected people is the right start.

"There's definitely still a lot of work to do from a policy perspective, to ensure that all the right supports are in place for New Mexico to quickly scale to a fully mature cannabis industry. But if you're looking at all signs from the first four months of adult-use sales, the promise of the cannabis industry being one, it's kind of a game-changer for New Mexico, and it looks like it's going to be realized."

- Ben Lewinger

"Now, the part two of that is all these different support mechanisms, including opportunity opportunities for capital funding, including helping folks who are coming over from the unregulated market, having kind of the business savvy and the financial, the accounting wherewithal to understand how to deal with [federal Tax Code] 280E, to understand all the business components that come with a regulated market," Lewinger said. "I think those are some examples of what's desperately needed right now."

Lewinger says that while there are 1,000-something new licenses on the table, making sure that they have what they need, especially for the homegrown New Mexico business—is an entirely different story.

"That's what the state is focusing on for the next six months," Lewinger adds. "And then there's just some things that are left out of legislation because we didn't know what we know now, at the time. But now we know that, you know, the ability for micro licenses to wholesale to other micro licenses, that was definitely not an aspect that was purposely left out of the legislation, but the way it was written that was kind of an unintended consequence. So there's some small fixes like that, but we're gonna need to do the next legislative session, which starts in January."

Just south of Las Cruces is a place called Sunland Park, where cannabis commerce is thriving faster than other areas, Lewinger said. 

 nmcannabischamber.org

HIGH FIVE

FIVE WOMEN-LED CANNABIS BUSINESS GROUPS

Organizations supporting women in the cannabis industry.

by Benjamin M. Adams

1

CANNACLUSIVE

Cannaclusive was created to facilitate fair representation of minority cannabis consumers and amplify minority-owned cannabis businesses. It was co-founded in July 2017 by Mary Pryor, Tonya Flash, and Charlese Antoinette. Cannaclusive provides extensive resources such as a free stock photobase dedicated to diversity and the InclusiveBase, a directory of people of color who are leaders in cannabis. Prior is also the founder of Cannabis for Black Lives (CfBL), an organization designed for taking action and Fit For Us, a company aimed at improving the health and wellness of minorities.

2

BLUNT BRUNCH

Blunt Brunch was founded by Adelia Carrillo to provide female business leaders in cannabis with an authentic and empowering atmosphere to network. The event series believes in the "law of abundance," explaining that there's enough money and resources in the business world to go around for everyone. There are Blunt Brunch co-hosted events in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Nevada. Carrillo also serves as CMO of EventHi, an event and ticketing platform that doesn't discriminate against cannabis consumption events, unlike many mainstream ticketing platforms.

3

THIS IS JANE PROJECT

Founded by Bri Smith and Shannon DeGrooms, the This is Jane Project (TIJP) is a nonprofit shedding light, building community, and uplifting the lives of women and non-binary trauma survivors. Given the immense stigma both around cannabis and trauma that can bring about silence, TIJP believes cannabis can be both a bridge and a vessel in challenging that silence. TIJP 2.0, relaunched in 2021, is confronting the unique barriers faced in the era of legalized cannabis through several survivor-centered events.

4

WEIC (WOMEN EMPLOYED IN CANNABIS)

WEiC is an international association of women who work in cannabis. The organization is dedicated to building an industry that is both more diverse and more gender-inclusive. WEIC was founded in 2017 by Kyra Reed. WEiC hosts a Facebook group of the same name tailored to the needs of women working in cannabis. The group intends to remain drama-free, judgment-free, and members are encouraged to not take sides and avoid sabotaging other women's successes.

5

WOMEN GROW

Originally founded in 2014 in Denver, Colorado, Women Grow flourished early on in the adult-use market as a large cannabis women's organization, and now spans dozens of cities with local chapters. Women Grow was created with four main agendas: to connect, educate, empower, and inspire (C.E.E.I.) the next generation of cannabis leaders—particularly women leaders. Women Grow hosts summits across the U.S. with speakers who demonstrate leadership in cannabis.

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HONORING OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN

Famed musician and actress Olivia Newton-John passed away on Aug. 8 at age 73. “Olivia has been a symbol of triumphs and hope for over 30 years sharing her journey with breast cancer,” her husband John Easterling wrote on Instagram. “Her healing inspiration and pioneering experience with plant medicine continues with the Olivia Newton-John Foundation Fund, dedicated to researching plant medicine and cancer. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any donations be made in her memory to the @onjfoundation.” Newton-John was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1992, and she underwent a mastectomy and chemotherapy as treatment. Her cancer returned years later in 2013 when it spread to her shoulder, and later to the base of her spine in 2017. In 2018, she came out publicly in favor of the benefits of medical cannabis, and praised her husband’s knowledge of plant medicine that they were using to help treat her condition. In a 2019 interview with *Culture Magazine*, Newton-John attributed her good health to Easterling. “My husband, John, has been working with herbs for decades, I really don’t do anything but glean from his wealth of knowledge. He makes the pudding, I just eat it.”



FREEDIA
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PINE!

YOU ALREADY KNOW

Rapper Big Freedia, who was sampled by Beyoncé on the *Billboard* hit *Break My Soul*, recently celebrated the launch of a cannabis brand, Royal Bud. She partnered with Green Qween, a QTBIPOC-owned dispensary that opened in Los Angeles earlier this year in April, to release three debut strains—Mardi Grass, Release Ya Wiggle, and You Already Know—on Aug. 22. On release day, she took to social media to chat with fans about her new buds. “The queen only smokes the finest and I’m excited to share these products with y’all,” she wrote on Instagram. “That’s exactly what you gonna do when you smoke it release your anger, release your mind, release the smoke, Freedia got the pine!!!” she responded in a tweet. She stopped by Green Qween for a meet-and-greet on Aug. 26, and also appeared for a special musical performance at the DTLA Proud Festival 2022 on Aug. 28.



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BC LOVES BUDS

A report published in August 2022 by the British Columbia Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General found that cannabis legalization has helped to reduce purchases from the illegal market. Over 24,974 residents in British Columbia were asked a series of questions between June to August 2021 (which was compared to a similar survey conducted in summer of 2018, just before Canada legalized cannabis). “Taken together, these findings suggest that most people are using cannabis responsibly, but there are still some concerns,” the report stated in its introduction. “While this survey provides meaningful insights into how cannabis legalization may have influenced the lives of people living in British Columbia, these findings only scratch the surface.” The results show that 71% of consumers said they purchased cannabis from a licensed dispensary, while 17% of people said they bought cannabis from unlicensed stores (compared to the 56% of people in 2018). Similarly, there was a noteworthy decrease in those who bought cannabis from a “dealer,” with only 16% doing so in 2018, and 9% in 2021. However, there was an increase in illegal purchases online, which shifted from 1% in 2018 to 19% in 2021.

THE FLOODGATES OF CHANGE

For the first time since 2016, amendments for cannabis regulations in Massachusetts have been approved. Gov. Charles Baker signed Senate Bill 3096 into law on Aug. 11, which plans to increase diversity in cannabis business owners and creates a foundation for consumption facilities. According to *The Berkshire Eagle*, Baker said that the bill aims to “improve regulation of the cannabis industry,” as well as “expand opportunities for social equity businesses.” Baker did veto one section of the bill that would have allowed cannabis to be possessed, administered, and consumed on campus at public and private schools for children who have legal medical cannabis cards. “The voter initiatives that legalized medical marijuana in 2012 and 2016 included strong measures to keep marijuana away from K-12 schools and school children,” Baker wrote in a letter to legislators. “Both laws explicitly stated that marijuana would in no circumstance be permitted on school grounds. Because the study proposed in section 26 clearly works against these important and well-established protections and disregards the clear intentions of the voters in legalizing marijuana use, I cannot approve this part of the bill.”



YOU GO, GUYANA!

On Aug. 8, officials in the country of Guyana, which is located on the northern coast of South America, approved an industrial hemp bill. According to Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall, this is a monumental move for the country. “Hemp production in Guyana is a win-win situation for all the players involved. For the grower, it will be a source of income generation and job creation. For the consumers, it would have significant benefits, and for the broader economy, it would be a valuable source of foreign exchange, especially in the context of economic diversification,” Nandlall said. The bill requires the creation of a Guyana Industrial Hemp Regulatory Authority and members of various agencies to help govern the new program. The bill will first apply to two specific regions in Guyana for cultivation and production. Nandlall described these two regions as significantly economically depressed and in need of hemp to “stimulate employment and economic activities.”

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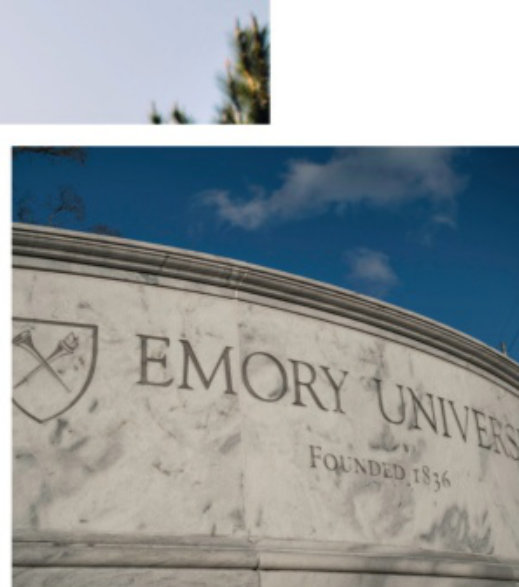
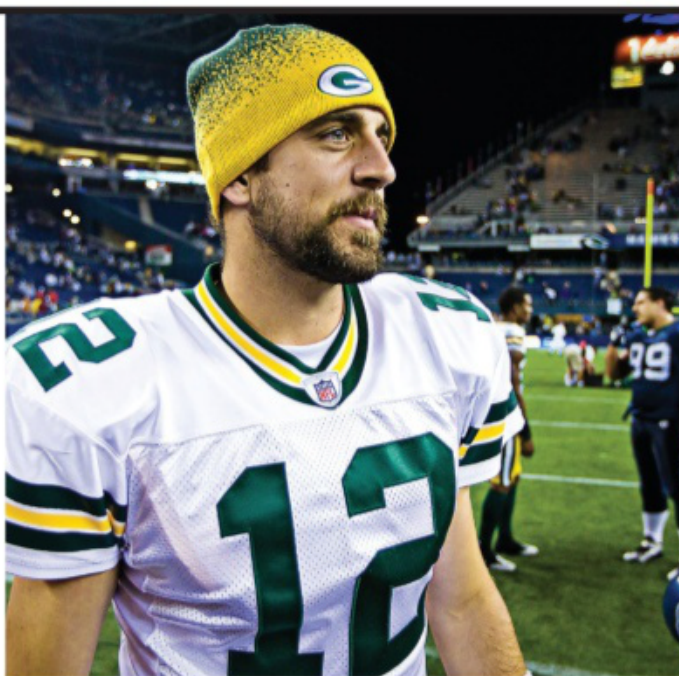


FEELING POSITIVE ABOUT POT

A Gallup poll released on Aug. 17 based on data collected between July 5–26, which revealed new data regarding how Americans view cannabis and its effects. When asked “What effect do you think the use of marijuana has on [most people who use it/society]?” participants were asked to describe if they viewed these effects as “Very/Somewhat” positive or negative. Under section called “Americans’ Views on Effects of Marijuana Use,” 49% said that they believe the effects on society are positive, while 50% said it was negative. On the topic of how cannabis affects consumers, 53% said it was positive, while 45% said it was negative. Currently, only 35% of people admit they have never even tried cannabis, but still view it as positive, while 72% who have never tried cannabis view it as negative. “The future of marijuana legalization, at both the federal and state levels, may partly depend on what medical and other research studies show is the impact of the drug on users and society at large, particularly if its use continues to expand. But with young people being more familiar and comfortable with marijuana, their greater tolerance may be destined to prevail over time,” Gallup concluded.

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

NFL athlete Aaron Rodgers, a four-time MVP, Superbowl Champion, and longtime player for the Green Bay Packers, spoke out on how consuming ayahuasca helped him achieve great success in his career. Rodgers discussed his experience with the substance on the Aubrey Marcus Podcast on Aug. 3, attributing its properties as having helped him love himself and his teammates unconditionally. “It’s only in that unconditional self-love, that then I’m able to truly be able to unconditionally love others. And what better way to work on my mental health than to have an experience like that?” he said on the podcast. “The greatest gift I can give my teammates, in my opinion, is to be able to show up and to be someone who can model unconditional love to them. I mean obviously it’s important I play well, and show up and lead and all that stuff. They won’t care about what you say until they know how much you care.” Rodgers attended a series of ayahuasca sessions in Peru during the 2020 and 2022 off seasons. NFL League Spokesperson Brian McCarthy confirmed shortly after that interview that Rodgers’s ayahuasca consumption would not trigger a positive result in NFL drug tests, and therefore would not be in violation of current drug rules.



COLLEGE KIDS KNOW WHAT’S UP

Results from a recent study show evidence of college application rates rising in states with legal cannabis. The study, called “Higher education: The impact of recreational marijuana on college applications” was published by the University of South Carolina and the Oxford College of Emory University, and found that overall there was a 15% increase in applications after a state legalized recreational cannabis. Furthermore, specific individual states whose recreational programs have been in place for some time, have seen an even larger increase in applicants. In Colorado for example, application rates increased to 30%. “We provide evidence that state and local policies influence an individual’s application consideration set by showing that the availability of recreational marijuana leads to a positive increase in the size of the application pool for colleges,” researchers wrote about their findings. “As more states legalize [recreational marijuana] and federal policymakers consider the same for the whole nation, our work stresses the potential for positive gains for colleges looking to improve their applicant pools, with no evidence of negative effects.”

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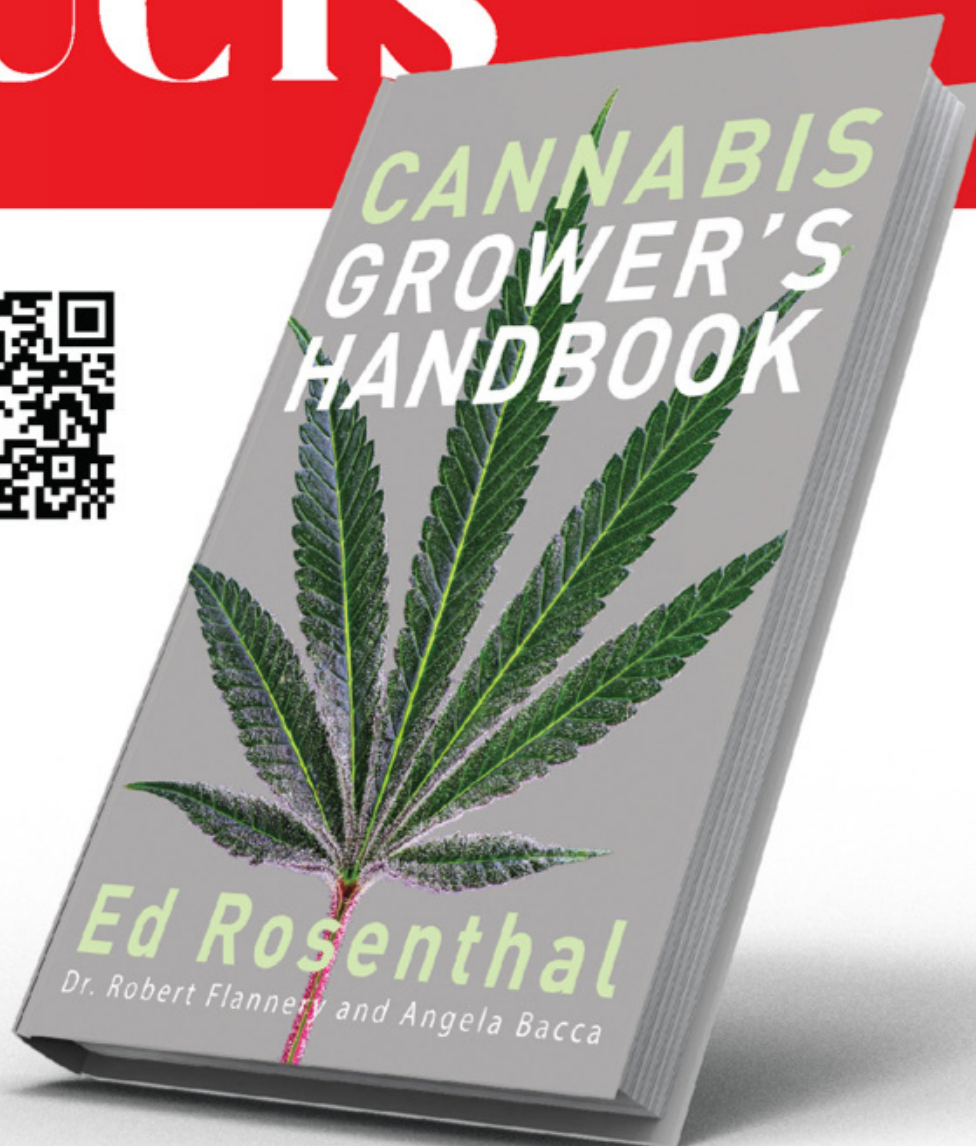
HOT PRODUCTS

GROW YOUR OWN GANJA

edrosenthal.com

The Guru of Ganja Ed Rosenthal recently released his update of the classic cultivation companion book, *The Cannabis Growers Handbook*. The comprehensive book goes through all the basics of indoor and outdoor growing while also delving into deeper areas of understanding of plant development, such as information about the light spectrum. One of the editors behind putting together the new edition, Angela Bacca, helped guide the extensive text to ensure it's both understandable and informative. As a journalist, Bacca has always addressed issues facing the industry at large and is a valuable voice in shaping what the future of cannabis might become.

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TURBOCHARGE YOUR SMOKE

kindlove.com

Instantly turn any old boring spliff into a powerful concentrate-infused dynamite stick! Directly insert the concentrate into your joints using a new technique. This concept, essentially a preformed hash snake, looks like a toothpick, but it's made using 100 mg of full-spectrum, strain-specific hash. **Turbocore by Kind Love** is designed to be inserted into the center of joints and pre-rolls. Each stick is made of full-spectrum hash. Released in Colorado dispensaries, Kind Love has plans to expand the product to several more states.

Prices vary





BATH BLISS

omliving.com

Infused with rosin, the OM **Sweet Dreams Bath Bomb** is packed with 50 mg THC, 10 mg CBN, and less than 2 mg of CBD per bomb. It has a gentle sweet vanilla aroma combined with calming lavender designed for winding down and taking some time for self-care. Our bath bomb took about 15 minutes until it was fully dissolved. The bath bombs fizz generously, so you can separate one into three or four pieces to be used in several sessions. The cannabinoids in the bath bombs can be absorbed topically, and they're also packed with other beneficial ingredients like jojoba oil, and Himalayan pink sea salt. Use with caution, just because it's a topical item does not mean it won't be extremely relaxing; we could barely get out of the tub afterwards. Try other versions like Himalayan Kush or Flower Power, with different soothing aromas such as gardenia, honeysuckle, jasmine, amber, and citrus.

Prices vary



WINE COUNTRY MEETS WEED COUNTRY

thegardensociety.com

The peach prosecco-flavored gummies from women-owned Garden Society were a great addition to a Saturday afternoon stroll in Golden Gate Park. With 5 mg of THC, these **Brighter Day** gummies are the strongest in the Wine Country Gummy line. Although we typically enjoy higher-doses in our edibles, (after all, this is *High Times*!) these gummies would be a good gift for mom or someone looking to try cannabis edibles for the first time. The wine grape concentrates in each add a nice touch in terms of framing the enjoyment of sungrown California cannabis alongside the enjoyment of California wines. These gummies, created with cannabis oil, do not include any of the herbaceous taste of the cannabis flower and come in different formulations including Calm & Focus (less than 1 mg of THC and 5 mg of CBD), Blissful Rest (5 mg THC and less than 1 mg CBD), and Brighter Day (5 mg THC).

Prices vary



PMS, PARENTING & PAIN

I'm more playful with my kids after an edible. Is there research on cannabis helping with parenting?

-Ima Momma

A lengthy review in *Preventive Medicine* concludes that we don't know anything. I'm sure a complex interaction of timing, dosage, and co-parenting arrangements would explain a lot, but the research would be expensive. Stay safe and rely on another caretaker whenever you can.

I know the plant can help with pain in general, but what about conditions like vulvodynia?

-Susan Hertz

Vulvodynia, chronic pain affecting the vulva, doesn't currently get the research attention it deserves. Over ¼ of women report that they've had the symptoms for over three months at some point in their lives. Women report that cannabis is very helpful for sharp or stabbing pain as well as pain during intercourse (dyspareunia), but it's less effective for the pain associated with wearing tight pants or inserting a tampon. The paper appears in the July 2020 issue of the journal *Cannabis*.

I feel as if my cis-female friends are much more sensitive to edibles than cis-males. Make sense?

-Sheila Joy

Could be. Laboratory work suggests that sex differences vary with dosage. Women were more sensitive than men, but only at low doses (5 mg THC). At 15 mg THC, the men were more sensitive than the women. HT

Is there a good strain for PMS [premenstrual syndrome]?

-Miss Demeanor

Students in my lab found that women report improvement for symptoms like irritability and muscle discomfort with cannabis, but little help for fatigue. No labs have addressed strain-specific effects, but a friendly woman at my local dispensary recommends lavender.

Got a favorite, funny, pot-related movie scene?

-Film Buffy

I'm dating myself, but a young Sean Penn banging a shoe against his face while chatting on the phone and saying, "That was my skull!" in *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* makes the whole flick.



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DOPE RIDER

WHEN YOU GET AN INSPIRATION, DOES IT FEEL LIKE IT CAME FROM YOUR BRAIN OR FROM SOME OUTSIDE SOURCE?

I'D SAY OUT-SIDE MY HEAD.

CUZ INSIDE, THERE'S NOTHING.

PAUL KIRCHNER

"HOW FAR DOES THIS CONSCIOUSNESS EXTEND? IT IS FOUND TO A DEGREE IN ANIMALS AND PLANTS. SOME HAVE DESCRIBED THE *EARTH* AS A LIVING ORGANISM, SO PERHAPS, EVEN *THERE*."

THE CHIEF CONTINUES: "I AGREE. *INSPIRATION, VISIONS, DREAMS* ALL COME FROM A CONSCIOUSNESS OUTSIDE OURSELVES, A CONSCIOUSNESS SHARED BY ALL BEINGS."

"THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF A *PLANET* WOULD BE BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION, EXISTING AS IT DOES ON SUCH A DIFFERENT SCALE AND TIME FRAME. HOW ABOUT THE *SUN*? FOR MOST OF OUR HISTORY WE WORSHIPPED IT AS A *GOD*, A CONSCIOUS ENTITY, WITHOUT WHICH LIFE COULD NOT EXIST. THEN SCIENCE REDUCED IT TO AN *INANIMATE OBJECT*. BUT WHAT DOES SCIENCE KNOW OF CONSCIOUSNESS? IT HAS NEVER EVEN BEEN ABLE TO *EXPLAIN* THE PHENOMENON."

"OUR *SUN* GENERATES ENORMOUS ENERGY, CREATING A MAGNETIC FIELD THAT EXTENDS FAR BEYOND THE SOLAR SYSTEM. AND THERE ARE *COUNTLESS* *SUNS* IN THE UNIVERSE."

DID YOU DO *PEYOTE* THIS MORNING? WHERE DID YOU GET THIS IDEA?

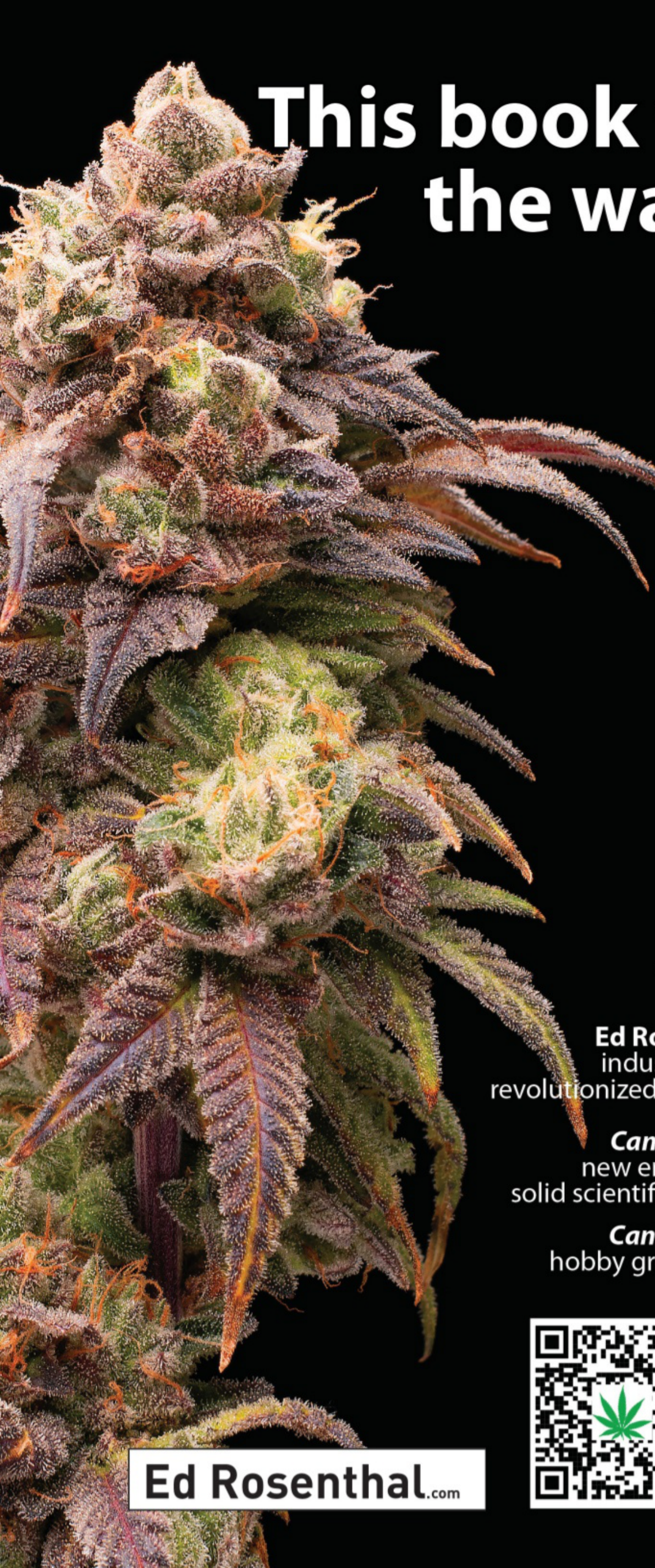
ACTUALLY, I GOT IT FROM A *YOUTUBE VIDEO* MY WIFE SHOWED ME.

"WHAT IF THEY'RE *COMMUNICATING*, LIKE CELLS IN A *COSMIC BRAIN*? THE WHOLE UNIVERSE MAY IN FACT BE THE *MIND OF GOD*."

DID YOU SEE "CAT SCARED BY CUCUMBER"? MY FAVE.

CHECK OUT RUPERT SHELDRAKE, "A CONSCIOUS UNIVERSE?"

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Dr. Robert Flannery and Angela Bacca

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